

REPORT
OF THE
AUDITORS,
COVERING THE REPORTS OF THE
SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS,
SHOWING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE
TOWN OF LEXINGTON,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JAN. 31, 1874.
TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF THE
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,
FOR 1873,
WITH OTHER VALUABLE STATISTICS.

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DRAINAGE REPORT.

LEXINGTON, FEB. 2D, 1874.

The Selectmen, acting as a Board in the execution of the provisions of the statute of April 19, 1873, authorizing them to drain the Meadows near the Central Village, ask leave to present the following

REPORT.

As the subject is somewhat novel in its character, and by many appears to be misapprehended, we feel called upon to make a report more full, than would be necessary under other circumstances. The subject of drainage, like most other important subjects, came before the town gradually. Complaints were made from time to time, of the flowing of water over certain portion of the Highway; and the partial relief given by the Surveyors, failed to satisfy the public. When these complaints assumed a tangible form, and became urgent, the following Article was inserted in a warrant for a Town Meeting—"To see if the Town will choose a Committee to take into consideration the subject of drains and sewerage in Lexington; and report at a future meeting."

Under this Article the town at a legal meeting, voted, "That a Committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the subject of Common Sewers, and the draining of *Streets*, *Swamps*, and *Meadows* in the different parts of the town, so far as it relates to the convenient use of the Highways, and the health of the inhabitants; and the said Committee are authorized in their discretion, to employ a competent surveyor or engineer, to take such levels as may be necessary to test the practicability of draining in any particular case; and the said Committee shall report the

result of their inquiries to the Town, as early as convenient." And Charles Hudson, David A. Tuttle, and Oliver P. Mills, were chosen as said Committee.

This Committee caused surveys to be made, and levels to be taken from the different points in the highways complained of; by which they learned that from a low place in the road near Mr. Blinn's to Vine Brook, was about 1500 feet, and the fall about 11 feet; and that from the same point in the road to an open ditch in the north meadow, the distance was about 550 feet, with a fall of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. This latter route was recommended by the Committee, and approved by the town; and the experience of one very unfavorable winter, has shown the complete success of this drainage.

In making these examinations, the Committee made, as they were instructed, a cursory examination of the meadows which surround the village; and found that they could easily be drained by deepening the channels of the streams, especially at the outlet of the meadows; and by enlarging and lowering the culverts across the Highways. The Committee recommended to the town, the draining of both meadows, on the ground that it would naturally tend to the health of the place, greatly improve the meadows themselves, and render suitable for building purposes, a broad belt of land on the margin of these meadows near the village, which is now too wet for dwelling houses. The Committee also presented for the consideration of the citizens, the plan of reimbursement—the town on public consideration, should pay for enlarging the culverts in the Highways, and the land owners should pay for the expenditure in the meadows on the betterment principle.

When this Report came before the Town, the suggestions of the Committee were adopted without hesitation, and a vote was passed, "That the Selectmen be directed to petition the Legislature for authority to drain the meadows on each side of the village, by lowering the channel of Vine Brook, and the stream emptying into the Shawshine, agree-

ably to the Report of the Committee." That vote was passed without opposition from any quarter—having the support even of citizens in the outparts of the town, who might naturally be supposed to be opposed to the measure on local grounds.

The Selectmen, in obedience to the instructions in the above cited vote, preferred their petition to the Legislature, for authority to drain the meadows—stating distinctly the advantages which would accrue to the land holders; and asking that the betterment provisions be incorporated in the bill, "so that the advantages and burdens may be equally distributed." This Petition was published three several times in the *Lexington Minute-man*; and so must have come to the knowledge of the land holders generally,—and yet no objection was made.

While this Petition was on the files of the Legislature, the Chairman of the Selectmen, at the suggestion of some of the friends of the measure, prepared a bill and read the same, section by section, to the friends of the drainage and of the water company, who were assembled for the express purpose of hearing their respective bills. After a careful reading the drainage bill was approved, containing the self-same provision, relative to the betterment principle, that is now in the statute.

The Act itself contains the provision that it shall have no binding force, unless it were ratified by the town. It was, therefore, laid before the town at a legal meeting called for that purpose, and adopted without opposition. Nay, after the bill was adopted by the town, they directed the Selectmen to go forward and carry out the provisions of the Act, by appropriating what was deemed necessary for the culverts in the Highways, and providing by a loan, for the means required to pay the expense of the draining in the first instance. Never was any measure more explicitly endorsed, *approved* and *RATIFIED* by the town; and never was any Board of town officers more specifically instructed to carry out any measure, than the Selectmen have been in this case. Our instructions

were embodied in the Act of the Legislature, repeated by the vote of the town, and well understood by all classes of our citizens, who were at all concerned in the enterprise. After the Selectmen had adopted a general plan of drainage, and had notified the land holders, in conformity to the provisions of the law, to appear before them and examine their plan, very few appeared; but those who did, knew full well that the cost of drainage was to be reimbursed by the abutters; and though one or two contended that they should not be benefited, they showed a perfect knowledge of the principle, that those who were benefited, would be required to pay; in other words that the draining must be paid by land holders, who were deemed to be benefited.

We have been thus particular, because it has been said by some, that the land holders have been taken by surprise, and they think it unreasonable to be called upon to pay for the draining, which they supposed would be paid for by the town. Some have already intimated that the town ought to assume the drainage debt, and so relieve the abutters from the tax. As this position seems to receive some favor in certain quarters, we feel compelled to state our convictions on this question, so that, if the town should get into any trouble, they shall not say that we led them into it. There are in our estimation, two substantial reasons why the town should not assume the drainage debt. 1st, they have no legal right to do it; and 2d, it would be unjust if they had the power.

First. We say the town has no legal right to assume such a debt. The expenditure was made for the benefit of individuals, to improve the value of their lands. This was the ground taken by the land owners themselves, when this enterprise was undertaken. No land owner that we are aware of, ever expected that the town would pay for the draining of the swamps. Those opposed to the measure, based their opposition on the ground that their lands would not be improved, and hence no betterment tax should be assessed upon them. They pleaded an exception in their case, and thereby allowed the opposite to be the rule. So that after all, we are driven

to the position, that the draining in the meadows or in land so connected with them as to render it necessary to sink a drain to carry off the water from the meadows, is an expenditure on private property for the benefit of the owners of the landed property on the meadows. We say then that the town has no more right to assume the cost of draining the meadows of an individual than they would have to assume the cost of shingling his barn, painting his house, or papering his parlor.

It may perhaps be urged, for self interest is always fruitful in its pleas, that this draining was done by the town, through the agency of its town officers, and therefore, the town has a right to assume the debt thus contracted. We say that the premises here assumed are not tenable. The town as *such*, has not drained the meadows—nor have the Selectmen as *such*, lowered the channels and the ditches. You will look in vain among the powers of towns, for any authority to enter upon the lands of individuals and drain them for the benefit of the owner thereof; and you will look in vain among the prescribed duties of Selectmen, for any authority to do what we have done in this case. The fact is, that what has been done in this case, has not in a strict legal sense, been done by the *town* or by the *town officers*.

The town and the undersigned have both acted as *Special Agents* for the citizen, including the land owners, who in the sense of the law petitioned for the draining, and accepted the act making the town and the Selectmen their *agents*. We have acted not as Selectmen, but as *Agents* named by the Legislature and ratified by your votes. Nor is there anything mysterious in this. An individual gives a certain sum for a specified object. His language in his Will or Deed is "I give to the town of A. fifty thousand dollars to be expended by the Selectmen in building a Soldiers' monument." Now property thus given is not given to the town as a *town*, but as an existing corporation—a *trustee to receive and hold the money till it is wanted for the purpose specified*. Nor are the Selectmen as *such*, to expend that fund. The giver

wishing to employ some responsible agent, and not knowing who may be upon the stage, when his gift matures, but knowing that the Selectmen are a permanent institution, he is satisfied that the gentlemen the town elects to manage its financial affairs, will be safe agents to manage his bequest, and hence he makes the men who may happen to be upon that board, *his agents*. So in this particular case; the town and those who happen to be Selectmen are the agents of those who petitioned for the drainage; made so by the statute.

Suppose for instance, that no act had been passed. The town under that state of things, would have no right to enter upon these meadows. The only authority that the town or the Selectmen have to put a spade into these ditches, is conferred by the act itself; and this power must be exercised to promote the object therein specified, viz: To improve the estates, and to tax the cost upon the owners in proportion to the benefit conferred. On this principle, and on this principle alone, have we any right to expend any money upon these Meadows. We enter upon private property under these provisions of the statute, and we must conform to the provisions. Out of the statute we can do nothing; and under it, we must conform to its requirements. To avail ourselves of the power of entering upon the lands on these meadows, and then assessing the cost upon an individual whose entire property is far removed from these meadows, or the waters which flow from them, would be a direct violation of the letter and spirit of the act itself. We say then that the town has no legal right to spend their money on private property for the benefit of the individual; and to assume the drainage debt, would render any tax illegal; and the Court on application would enjoin the Treasurer, and so prevent his paying out any money for such a purpose.

It may be said in answer to this, that the town does in fact; expend money in carrying out this drainage system; that the enlarging of the culverts across the Highways, and the interest on the loans to meet these expenses, till the betterment tax is collected, is by the provision or necessary

implication of the statute, to be paid in the first instance by the town. This is readily admitted; and the very fact stated shows the authority for it; the statute provides for it; that is the end of the matter; and we need look no farther for authority. Besides, by providing that the town may incur these expenses, the law prohibits the town from incurring others, on the principle, that an enumeration excludes whatever is not enumerated. Besides, the money expended on the road culverts, is expended not on private property, but on land dedicated to the public, where the town has an oversight, and may make such improvements as it pleases. Examine the subject, therefore, as you may, and you will, we think, fail to find any legal foundation for the doctrine, that the town may assume this debt.

And if we look at the equity of the case, the objection is equally strong. Lexington happens to have a large amount of Peat meadows, situated in different parts of the township; and there is no justice or equity in taxing a meadow owner in the extreme northern, western, southern, or eastern part of the town, to pay for improvements made in the meadows in the central part of the town, for the benefit of the owners thereof. Why should a man owning a portion of the Great Meadows in the easterly section of the town, or of Bull Hill Meadows in the extreme northerly part of the town, be made tributary to the men who own a portion of Vine Brook meadows? In fact, to tax the farmers in the outparts of the town to pay for benefits conferred upon a few individuals in the centre, would in our judgment, be an act of palpable injustice, even if it were legal. But we are satisfied that the town will not attempt any such act of illegality and injustice. Let the subject be understood, and we have no fears of the result. Those who till their rough acres in the outparts of the township, will never consent to be taxed to enhance directly the value of land more favorably situated than their own. And the people in the centre, if they are wise, will not attempt to press a measure so unjust and unlawful, and thereby array one portion of our citizens against another.

Thus much your Committee have felt bound to say, to prevent any indiscreet action on the part of the town ; which would involve us in suits ; and thereby increase our expenses, and impair the character of the place.

On entering upon the duties of the Commission, and viewing the premises, we saw at once that the enterprise was greater, and would involve a heavier expenditure than we had anticipated. The distances on measurement, proved to be greater, and the level character of the meadows required deeper cuttings at the out-lets, than we had contemplated, and so requiring more expensive culverts across the Highways. But with this increase in the magnitude and expense of the undertaking, we saw what we regarded as a corresponding increase of the benefits of draining. We found on personal examination, a larger tract of land than we had supposed, affected by the waters of these meadows. We found acres upon acres, which had been reclaimed, where the ditches had grown up with weeds, and the wild grass had come in and displaced the better kind of grasses, owing to the water that stood upon the meadow, thereby rendering the land too wet for cultivation. And the reason why the ditches were not kept open, was that there was a bar or obstruction in the channel below, on some other man's land, which kept back the water ; and hence opening the channel on one man's premises, would not relieve him of the flood of water which in a wet time would overflow his land. As evidence of this, we found in some places broad and open ditches three or four feet deep, filled with water, nearly to a level with the surrounding land, thereby showing that such ditches were nearly useless, because there was no suitable outlet below for the water.

We found other meadow land under a good state of cultivation, where the owners complained, that if they put on a good dressing of manure, the next freshet that came, would overflow the land, and the owner of the land below in some cases, would reap a greater advantage from the manure, than

they did themselves. We also found a large quantity of good peat land growing up to birches and maples, brakes, briers, alders and other brush, which could easily be reclaimed and converted into the most productive of land, if the water could only be drained off. We found acres of land which had been cleared of wood and in some cases of brush, the income from which would scarcely pay the labor of cutting the grass, but which on a proper drainage would be made highly productive. Some of this land consisted of bogs, separated from each other, with low wet spaces between them, with no grass growing, except upon the bogs, and that of a very poor quality; and though the coarse wild grass upon the bogs, when seen at a distance, would seem to denote a considerable crop of hay, when closely examined, it would be found hardly worth mowing. Nor could such land be materially improved without draining. We found several lots of this character, and none of them could be effectually drained without the exercise of some such power as that contained in the bill under which we have acted. Mr. Moakeley, Mr. Foster, and Mr. Osburne might wish to drain their meadows; but between them and the proper outlet there was a space of three-quarters of a mile or more, with a fall of only about 28 inches to our main street; and nothing that they could do, would relieve them of these floods, unless they could get the consent and co-operation of all the land owners below—which they could not do. Even land within eighty rods of our main street, could not be drained, because one owner below held the outlet of the meadow, and did not wish to have the channel lowered.

So of the North Meadows. All above Bedford street were subject to the control of the owners of the land immediately below that street. With a fall of only six or seven inches in seventeen hundred feet, the owners of the land in those meadows could do little or nothing towards ridding themselves of an overflow two or three times in a year. And the owners of meadows below Bedford street, held them, so far as drainage was concerned, subject to the control of the

owners of the lands next above and next below Cross street. And in addition to this, the town having the control of the culverts through Main, Waltham, Bedford, and Cross street, which were insufficient to carry off the water in a freshet, virtually held a veto power upon the drainage of these meadows. The land holders have great reason to be thankful, that the town has removed those barriers to their drainage at the road crossings; and especially that an act has been obtained by which a general system of drainage can be carried on, and that no one individual shall have the power to arrest public improvements, and so impede the prosperity of the community. The personal rights of every man should be respected; but when the wishes or interest of one man stands in the way of public prosperity, he should yield to the public demand, receiving of course a reasonable compensation for any damage personal to himself.

Though the Committee from the first reconnoissance saw that the undertaking was one of no ordinary magnitude, they felt themselves instructed to go forward with the enterprise, believing that the advantages at least would keep pace with the expenses. Their first duty was to cause a proper survey to be made, and levels to be taken, so as to determine the grade and depth of the cuts. They employed J. R. Carter, Esq., of Woburn, who has the charge of the street and water survey of that town.

The result of these surveys showed, that on the North Meadows, the distance from the causeway leading to the house of Mr. Geo. W. Robinson to the culvert of the Middlesex Central Railroad just above the Watering-place of Mr. Charles Tidd, where we decided to have our draining terminate, was forty-eight hundred and seventy-six feet (4876) and that the fall was eleven and thirty-six hundredths feet (11.36), which if thrown into one uniform grade would give less than two inches and eight-tenths (2.8) to the hundred feet (100). This fall being so small, it was deemed by the Engineer, necessary to throw it all into one uniform grade; and in this opinion we readily concurred. The meadows

being so nearly on a dead level, and the fall being in a good degree below Cross street, it became necessary to cross Bedford street with a cut of about four (4) feet below the surface of the meadow above the street. The Railroad we found to be five hundred and seventy-nine (579) feet distant from Bedford street; and though there was a natural fall from the street to the Railroad, the cut at the street and the assumed descent of the grade, exhausted the natural fall, and required us to cross the Railroad with a cut of a little more than four (4) feet below the surface of the meadow at that point, and about two (2) feet lower than the ditch the corporation had sunk beside their road. From this point our assumed grade required a cut of from four to six and a half feet below the surface. This was the most expensive part of our draining in this meadow. The depth of the cut and the quick sand, which was encountered on some portion of the line, rendered the work both difficult and expensive.

We have sometimes been asked, why we did not keep upon the westerly side of the Railroad, and so save the expense of the two costly culverts through the Railroad? To every one who has examined the subject, and who has anything like a just appreciation of the facts, the answer must be obvious. *We could not do it consistently with the statute under which we acted.* We were required to drain the meadows, and the plan suggested would leave the greater part of the meadows below Bedford street, entirely undrained. Besides, the act itself contemplated our passing the Railroad with one or more culverts.

But an objection perfectly destructive of such a plan, is drawn from an express provision of the statute. After authorizing the lowering of the main channels in these meadows for the express purpose of *draining them*, the act declares, "That for the purposes aforesaid, the town may make such excavations and cut such cross and side drains or ditches, *in said meadows, or in the low and swampy lands connected therewith*, as may be deemed necessary."

Now to continue our drain down upon the westerly side of

the Railroad, we should have not only to divert the water from its natural channel, and leave a large portion of the meadows undrained; but we should violate the express provisions of the law, which confines us to the channels, or *such cross ditches in said meadows, or the low and swampy lands connected therewith*. To drain the upper meadows down on the westerly side of the Railroad, would be to abandon the meadows, and the low and swampy land, and to cut, not a *side* or *cross* drain, but our main drain through at least twelve or fifteen hundred feet of dry upland, with a cut of from nine to twelve feet. The Railroad is here located five rods wide, and is for a considerable distance entirely upon upland, and we should be required to keep west of their location where the land is still higher, as they informed us that they could not allow us to occupy their ground, because with a ditch two or three feet lower than theirs, in that loose and peculiar soil, we should undermine their road, and cause them great trouble.

Moreover, we should have no legal right to cut through that section of upland; and as one of the owners of that portion of land, is opposed to the whole system of drainage, he would rightfully have ejected us from his premises. Besides; as the cut would be deep, and the soil is very loose, the ditch must have been curbed or walled up, on both sides, or a very wide strip of land taken for the ditch, and in either case, it would probably have cost more than it has to cross the Railroad with culverts, since the corporation have agreed to pay *five hundred dollars* towards the expense.

It might seem unnecessary to labor a point so clear, but as some persons who evidently have never examined the subject, and are to this day ignorant of the facts in the case, have charged us with spending money unnecessarily, we have deemed it due to the public to state the facts in the case. Equally unfounded, is the statement which has been made by some, that the Railroad Company had furnished a sufficient system of drainage. Before the upper culvert was opened in their road, their diversion of the stream from its

natural channel, had caused the water above their road to rise as high as it did before the construction of their road, and in fact to set the current back to the central part of the meadow above Bedford street. And before opening the lower culvert, they had so obstructed the water that the lower part of Mr. Tidd's meadow was actually submerged in an ordinary fall of rain. Instead, therefore, of the Railroad furnishing suitable drainage, it actually obstructed the natural flow of water, and caused it to rise higher than before—as some on the easterly side of the Railroad will probably realize before next May.

With reference to the meadows on Vine Brook, we are free to say that in extent and in importance, they have exceeded our anticipation. The survey revealed the fact that each branch of the brook, furnished a broad width of meadows over a mile in length, all of which might be made very productive. There is also a belt of upland near the village, which has ever been deemed unfit for building purposes, from the fact that dwellings thereon would have water in their cellars. But deepening the channel in the meadows, two or three feet, will render that land fit for the builder's use, and so add very materially to its value. The benefits arising from the drainage, will not be confined to the meadows alone. The adjoining upland, in some cases, will greatly participate in the blessing. Every farmer knows that there is generally a strip of land bordering upon meadows, too wet for tillage, and often the most unproductive land on the farm. Draining will so far alter its character, that it can be improved for tillage, and thus this unsightly and comparatively barren strip of land will be made productive, as well as the land on both sides.

The survey on the southern branch of Vine Brook, commenced on land of Mr. Moakley, nearly opposite the dwelling house of Mr. Patch, on Middle street, and the drain may be cheaply extended in Mr. Moakley's meadows above that point. From the point where we commenced the sur-

vey, to Main street culvert, the distance is six thousand and fifty (6,050) feet. To give as good drainage as practicable, we decided that the culvert on Main street should be lowered four (4) feet, and to provide for all contingencies, we required that the sidewalks should be sunk one foot more. When the drain was carried from this culvert to Osburn's meadow, we lowered the water in his ditches more than a foot, which was a practical test of our system of drainage at the head of the stream.

The western branch of Vine Brook, so far as we thought it necessary to extend our drainage, we found to be six thousand two hundred and fifty-six (6,256) feet above the junction of the two branches. Here we had more fall than on the southern branch. We also extended our drain from Main street to the Lexington and Arlington Railroad. The culvert under the Railroad was always too small, and will now prove insufficient to carry off the water in times of freshets. Though the drainage cannot increase the quantity of water, it will deliver it at the culvert quicker, and so render it necessary that the culvert be enlarged—which ought to be done at once. We have called the attention of the Lowell Corporation to the subject, and they have given us to understand that the thing should be attended to. That culvert should be lowered twelve or fifteen inches, and widened to the same amount. The most costly part of the draining on Vine Brook, has been from the Railroad to Richardson's dam, where it was found necessary to wall up the channel on both sides, the greater part of the way.

It has been our purpose to have the work done in a thorough manner. Though we foresaw that the cost would exceed our first estimate, we were satisfied that the people would demand a thorough ditching, so that the experiment might be fully tried. We have taken special pains to have the culverts across the highways, so enlarged and so substantially built, that the present generation at least, should have no occasion to alter them. We were also aware that the meadow owners themselves, would not be willing that we

should leave our work half done. We have therefore, obeyed the instructions of the State and the town, and sunk such ditches, as seemed to be required to drain the meadows. And if the cost has been more than was at first anticipated, the blame, if any there be, should rest upon the principal, quite as much as upon the agents. The work we have done has been no ordinary job. We have lowered the channels of the streams, and cut side drains embracing a distance of about four miles; some of the distance through barriers of upland where rocks had to be blasted, and some of the way through treacherous quick sand. We have also constructed culverts of the most thorough and substantial character, of the aggregate length of about two hundred and fifty (250) feet, covered with stone brought from a great distance, and of course at great expense. And whatever the hasty opinion of the public may be, we are perfectly willing to abide the verdict of the people five years hence, when the experiment shall have been fairly tested, and the benefits realized. Any decision short of that must be premature. We cannot dismiss this part of the subject, without noticing the fact, that some who now condemn the whole project, were when the enterprise was first agitated, among its warmest advocates; and those who have been the loudest in condemnation of what we have done, have never seen the surveys, or examined the plans showing the grades.

We come now to the most delicate, and in some respects the most difficult part of the duty imposed upon the Board—we allude to the assessments of benefits upon the different abutters. Sound judgment and discretion are required in the apportionment of all taxes; and in the present case, there is perhaps, more than ordinary difficulty; because we have no precedents to guide us. The premature setting in of winter, and especially the vote of the town postponing final action on the assessments, have relieved the present Board from the labor and responsibility of apportioning the tax. Personally we are very willing to be released from this delicate duty; though we should not have shrank from the task, if we had not been relieved of it.

But as we have revolved this matter somewhat in our minds, we will here state the general view we have taken of the subject, and some of the principles which would have guided us in our assessment, if the duty had devolved upon us. In the first place, we should according to our best judgment, leave every man as well off as we found him, allowing damage, where we believed a party would be permanently injured. We should have considered that the whole responsibility of the assessment rested upon us; for though we should have consulted and conferred with others, inasmuch as the statute devolves this duty upon the selectmen alone, we should have made the act our own—otherwise the tax would be illegal, and could not have been collected. Though the subject is somewhat delicate, a little reflection will simplify the matter, and teach the abutters what they should expect. It is a question between the different land holders. A certain sum has been expended, and this sum is to be reimbursed by a certain number of land owners. The question is not whether an individual has been assessed beyond the immediate benefit he has received; but whether his tax is higher in proportion than others. All the reduction that is made on one man's tax, is simply transferring that amount to others. The question therefore, is simply one between the abutters—neither the town nor the Selectmen being a party in the case.

Nor can any man expect to reap a full equivalent in a single year. The tax is paid once for all; the benefits are perpetual. If an individual is assessed one hundred dollars, and his lands will yield him ten dollars a year more in consequence of the drainage, he will have made a profitable investment. There may be other indirect benefits. Some men will have their ditches cleaned out, and thereby be saved from the expense of clearing them themselves; or they may have a drain brought to the line of a lot of land, before undrainable, where they can now, or at any future day, avail themselves of the privilege of draining it.

There is one other benefit which is or may become of vast

importance. The land owner by this law, acquires an easement through all the lands below him within these premises on the stream—so far as the flow of water is concerned—which probably he could not obtain in any other way. Without this drainage act, every owner of land on these meadows, holds his land subject in a certain sense, to the interest or whim of those below him. Though they cannot stop the natural flow of a natural stream, they may suffer and perhaps cause the channel to be filled up with weeds and bushes, so that the owners above them cannot avail themselves of the benefits of deepening the ditches on their own land. The owner of the land near the outlet of any meadows, may deem it for his interest to have his ditches and even the main channel of the stream, grow up to brush and weeds, so as to obstruct the natural flow of water, and thereby cause it to spread over the whole surface of his meadow, and leave the deposit from the cultivated lands above; and the owners above have no power to compel him to clear out his channel. But with the powers conferred by this drainage act, every owner in any part of the meadows, can compel the opening of the channels below him, as far as this draining has extended.

There is another view of this subject, still more striking. The Courts have decided that any man has a right to fence against *surface* water, so as to exclude it from his land altogether. Now we all know that at the head and on the shores of our meadows, the water which oozes from the upland, and runs down from the hill-sides, is surface water, and if this water passes over the land of A. and enters upon the land of B. before it cuts a channel, so as to become a natural stream, B. has a legal right to erect any barricade on his own land, and stop this flow of water though it may drown out A. But if a drain is cut by the authority of this drainage Act, through the land of A. into the land of B., then A. has a perpetual right to pass this water, whether from a natural stream or from the surface, through the land of B. This question of *surface water* in our swamps and low lands,

is becoming one of great interest, and no small difficulty; and to have it superseded in the case of our meadows, by the provisions of the drainage law, is certainly a great privilege to the land-holders generally.

So in fact, when an individual is called upon to pay a betterment tax, he should realize that he is asked to pay once for all, for a benefit which is perpetual; that it may be for clearing out his ditches and saving him the expense of doing it; that it may enable him to drain other lands which were otherwise unapproachable for that purpose; and finally that it gives him *a perpetual easement through all the lands below him, so far as draining is concerned.*

The premature setting in of winter, prevented the finishing of the job as we anticipated. The drain at the lower end of the North Meadow, will require to be walled up higher than it is at present, and some side drains, beyond what has already been done, should perhaps be cut. On the South Meadow, the wall on the land of Mr. Wood and Mr. Muzzey requires some additional finish. The spring will of course reveal some facts, which may require a little labor here and there, to secure a free flow of the water. But the whole expense will be trifling.

We have expended upon the meadows the sum of four thousand seven hundred and twenty-two and 17-100 dollars (4,722.17), and as the Middlesex Central Railroad have agreed to pay five hundred dollars towards the cost of the culverts under their road, this will reduce the sum chargeable to the land-holders to forty-two hundred and twenty-two dollars and seventeen cents (4222.17).

Of this there is chargeable to the lands on

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Vine Brook, | \$2,435.08 |
| And to the lands on the North Meadow, | 1,787.09 |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| CHARLES HUDSON, | } Selectmen of Lexington, acting as Agents of the Town and of the Abutters on the Drains or Ditches in the Meadows. |
| L. S. PIERCE, | |
| B. C. WHITCHER, | |

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN

ON THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN.

LEXINGTON, FEB. 3, 1874.

The Selectmen, in conformity with usage and the vote of the town, submit to their fellow citizens of Lexington, the following Report on the financial condition of the town :

REPORT.

The increasing demand for enlarged appropriations, and the general tendency to exceed them when made, seem to require some check to prevent our expenditures becoming excessive ; and our taxes so severe as to prevent the growth of the place. Common observation shows a want of system in our fiscal affairs. In 1870 the Selectmen of their own motion, presented for the consideration of the town, a series of votes to the effect, that the town officers should, at the annual meeting in each year, present a true inventory of all the public property in their custody respectively ; stating its conditions, and submitting an estimate of what would be required to sustain their respective departments the coming year.

By this course, it was thought that the entire wants of the people would be presented to the town at once, and that the estimates of the several Boards would be a general guarantee, that the sums asked for would be sufficient. These votes were passed by the town without opposition, and were designed as Standing Rules for the government of the town officers. The Highway Surveyers, the Overseers of the

Poor, the Trustees of the Cary Library—in fact, all the officers designated, except the School Committee, complied with the vote of the town at the next annual meeting. The School Committee merely asked verbally, for an appropriation of a certain amount. This neglect of duty, being pointed out in the Auditor's Report, the School Committee the last year, made a full Report, and asked for an appropriation of \$13,365—being \$4,865, more than was appropriated the year before. And yet they have expended on the grant for repairs and incidentals alone nearly *three hundred dollars* more than the appropriation for those objects. The party to whom the Committee are indebted, want their pay, but are told by the Committee, that they must wait till the next grant is made, when they shall have further patronage.

At our annual meeting a year ago, the Selectmen presented the evil of the frequent overdrawing of the appropriations; which resulted in the passage of a vote, that the Selectmen should not draw an order upon the Treasurer for any sum in excess of the particular grant, except in cases where they had, on application of the party entrusted with the expenditure, given their consent in advance—deeming it good economy and necessary to carry out the design of the town in making the grant.

This rule, adopted by the town to check excessive expenditures, the School Committee have totally disregarded. They have not applied for any permission to make the extra expenditures; nor were these expenditures required by any accidental cause, or anything which could not have been foreseen. We do not mention this neglect to consult the Selectmen, because we have any desire to magnify our office. On the contrary, we would willingly be relieved from this responsible duty. But as the town has imposed it upon us, we should not shun the responsibility, if parties apply to us, nor fear to state the fact, when that just and wise rule is evaded. The particular expenditure of the Committee was probably necessary and proper in itself, and if some other useless and fanciful expenditure had been omit-

ted, there would have been no occasion for exceeding the grant.

The Engineers of the Fire Department have made no Report to the town; but they have the excuse that their Board was not specified in the vote, requiring such reports. They, however, see the propriety of submitting such a statement and estimate to the town, and have agreed to do it in future.

It is observable that, since the war, when the government was compelled to expend money without stint, and so incur a heavy debt, smaller communities, and private individuals seem inclined to embark in wild schemes of speculation, and trust to mere good luck, to supply the means. Towns have in some instances, increased their debt to an alarming degree. While our debt is small, compared with that of some of our sister towns, it is sufficiently large to admonish us not to increase it unnecessarily. The feeling we believe is somewhat general, that our taxes are becoming rather oppressive; and that any increase of them would deplete rather than swell the population of the township. The Selectmen participate in this feeling, and believe that one step towards checking abuses is, to adopt such a system of grants and expenditures as will bring the whole matter more directly before the tax-payers themselves.

We have already spoken of the requirements of the town, to have the officers in each Department, present a definite statement of the condition and wants of their particular departments; so that the people may know at the commencement of the year, what they are to provide for, and how much money they can afford to grant. And when these appropriations are made, let it be understood that no more money shall be expended under each grant than the amount specified, without the permission of the Selectmen, obtained in advance, as the vote of the town requires.

Let the settlements with the town officers be made frequently, as required by our By-Laws; and direct the Selectmen not to draw orders of any considerable amount for any

Board, until they have evidence that the sum asked for has already been expended, or is wanted for *immediate use*. Let this system be adhered to, and our expenditures would be at once checked to a certain extent.

Many of our expenditures have grown up gradually, and in a manner unknown to the people. In no Department is this more manifest than in our schools. We appropriate annually a certain sum which has generally been overdrawn. Then there are certain outside expenses, which have rapidly increased within the last three years. In 1860 the School Committee received \$130 for their services. This sum increased to about \$150 in 1869, when \$180 was appropriated, and in 1871 the appropriation for the pay of the Committee was increased to \$280 which was deemed to be sufficient. When the Committee received \$130 or \$140, they included in the bill their horse hire, and labor as Secretary, and for writing their Report. But the charge for the last year, presents a very different footing: For services, \$285; for stable bill, \$27.50; for writing School Report, and acting as Secretary of the Committee, \$25.00; for postage &c., \$3.50 for printing School Regulations, \$47.00, making an expenditure of \$388.00, when the town were not conscious of devoting more than \$280.00 for that general purpose. These expenses may all be necessary; but it is certainly a question in which the tax-payers should have a voice. There is no subject which comes before the town, more important than that of our schools; and no one where we would grant the necessary supply more cheerfully. We sympathize with the object, and with the worthy class engaged in the work of instruction, and would do nothing to impair the success of the one, or to lessen the compensation of the other. But when the cost of our schools amounts to nearly two-fifths of our entire municipal expenditures, it certainly cannot be amiss to inquire whether all these expenditures are judicious.

We would have the Assessors also submit an estimate of the wants of their Department, including the printing, books and stationery which we know to be necessary, which will be required for the coming year.

The expense of our Police force has increased rapidly within the last two years. This is to be ascribed in part to the influx of a foreign and floating population, and to a rowdy tendency among some of our own young men. While the unlawful practice of retailing whiskey to this class of people prevails, we may naturally expect tumult and mischief. And yet we believe that a more perfect organization of our Police force, would do something towards rendering that force more efficient, and checking in a degree, the disturbances which have existed; and at the same time reduce the expense of that department. We would therefore recommend that the Constables chosen by the town, and the two Police officers required by our By-Laws, organize by electing a Chief, under whose general direction, all the police force of the town shall act; and that they shall report their acts and doings to their Chief; and no bills for their services or expenses shall be allowed by the Selectmen, unless approved by the head or Chief of the Police. This is simply requiring of them, what is asked of other town officers. Let this recommendation be adopted, and let the Chief report to the town the condition and wants of his department, and the expense would be diminished, and the efficiency of the Police augmented.

We believe that such an exhibition of the wants of the public service, while it would not deprive any branch of its needed supplies, would enforce a more direct accountability, and prevent the increase of wasteful expenditures.

We are aware that various schemes have been suggested to improve our financial affairs. One scheme is to dispense with all orders to draw money from the Treasury, and let each claimant go directly to the Treasurer with his bill and let the Treasurer if the bill is approved by the town officers of the Department in which the expenditure occurred, pay it and retain the bill on file as his voucher.

The objection to this scheme is, that it gives to each class of town officers the right to audit their own accounts; which is always regarded as an unwise policy. This dividing of

authority would also introduce different systems of allowing accounts ; and impair the public records. Now, we have the *stubs* of the order Book, the order itself, and the receipted bill, each being a check upon the other ; the two former of which would be superseded by the scheme in question. By the By-Laws of the town recently adopted and approved by the Court, the Selectmen are authorized to direct the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of the collection of taxes, whenever they may deem it necessary. By the present system, when nothing is drawn from the Treasury, but on their order, the Selectmen know the condition of the Treasury ; and hence would know when and to what extent, money is needed. But on the proposed system by which every class of town officers is to draw from the Treasury, the Selectmen are deprived of that knowledge.

Others have proposed opening an account current with each and every appropriation, and transferring any balance that may be left in one grant to another. This might work well in a city or large town, where a permanent office is kept, and where high salaries command experienced clerical talents ; but we apprehend that it would require more machinery and *red tape*, than a small town would care to support. Where an appropriation is made for a certain object, and the expenditure falls fifty cents or a dollar short of the grant, what is to be done with the balance ? Transfer it to another grant, we are told. To what grant, and when and by whom is the transfer to be made ? It cannot prudently be made at once ; because it cannot be known perhaps till the end of the year, what grants will prove inadequate to meet the drafts which will be made upon them respectively. And it would be folly to transfer to a grant overflowing. And by whom shall the transfer be made ? By the town ? The town is not in town meeting assembled, and it would cost more to call the town together, than a dozen such balances are worth. And if you wait till the close or near the close of the year, and you can hardly pass on such questions before, the whole thing will have passed by, and such action will be unneces-

sary. Or it may be said that the Selectmen may be empowered to make the transfer. This is in fact, making very little difference practically from our present system; and we confess that we are unable to see what is gained by this system of transfer. On our present system, the fifty cents left of the appropriation would remain in the Treasury, subject to any draft that might be made upon it. It would not be drawn by any order on any other grant, until that grant was exhausted. So in fact, nothing would be gained, but a little extra labor. All moneys raised by the town are assessed as one gross sum, and are paid into the Treasury as one fund, which remains one fund till it is drawn out for a specified object, named in some grant. When the sum named in the grant is greater than the expenditure under that head, the balance remains in the Treasury, as a part of the general fund, to be drawn upon for other purposes. Such has been the usage—and this has become the law of the town; from which we should not feel justified in departing, without the express vote of the inhabitants.

We have one general objection to this system, which we believe would prove fatal in practice. It would not be observed. We have seen that the few plain rules now adopted, are neglected by the officers of the town; and if you require a compliance with minute rules and regulations, they will most assuredly be neglected. We must take the people as they are, and our town officers as they will probably be for years to come, and it requires but little knowledge of men to see that from misapprehension or neglect these rules would grow into disuse. Our town officers have not been clerical experts, nor is it probable that they will all be such in future. *Book-keeping by double entry* is rarely put in requisition in the accounts of our small towns, and till our town officers are educated to this, an increase of machinery, would, we fear result in an increase of confusion.

Some of our citizens have recommended a more consolidated system of town government. They would have five or seven Selectmen chosen, and would make them Highway

Surveyors, Overseers of the Poor, Assessors, and perhaps School Committee. To carry out this system, they would have this elected Board employ a Road Commissioner and a Superintendent of the Schools. We know that there is a strong disposition in the community to ape not only the personal habits of the cities and the larger and more wealthy towns, but to copy their mode of transacting their public business. But such feelings are generally unhealthy. Institutions adapted to large towns may be very unsuitable in a small town. Take the case of a Road Commissioner. In towns where they grant fifteen or twenty thousand dollars to be expended upon their roads or streets, they can afford to pay a skillful man to take charge of their highways, and devote his whole time to the business. But in the town of Lexington where our appropriation for the last five years would not average over \$3,000, we could not afford to go abroad for a professional road repairer, who would of course insist upon being engaged for the year; and we should on this system want him in the winter as well as at other seasons of the year. Such a man would want at least \$1,000 or \$1,200, and thus one-third of our appropriation would be swallowed up at once. But it may be said that a good man may be found at home, who could be employed with a less compensation. Then why not elect him as one of your Surveyors or a sole Surveyor under our present system? Nearly the same remarks may be made relative to a Superintendent of Schools.

Every person of common sagacity knows that nature is not so lavish of her gifts, as to bestow them all upon one person. One man may be a good Selectman, but a poor Highway Surveyor; another might make a first-rate Assessor, but be totally unfit for a School Committeeman;—and so of the other officers. There are other objections to this system of consolidating our town offices. It removes the power further from the people; and common experience has shown that the greater the distance between the representative and his constituents, the greater the danger of the abuse of power. Besides, this departure from the true democratic

principles, tends to build up an aristocracy, and create a "ring" which might play into each other's hands, and so build up a party which may control the affairs of the town. Examples of this may be selected from distant cities or towns nearer home. By consolidating these offices you make them more important and lucrative, and hence they will be sought with more avidity; and we all know how elections may be carried, if aspirants are determined to succeed.

Besides, each of these proposed changes would increase the labor, and consequently the expense. We need only look at an adjoining town to see the operation of this consolidation, where one officer receives annually \$1,666.67 and five Selectmen \$250 each. But this is not all. We may learn from the same example that the best interests of the town are not guarded with more care there, than they have been in our more simple and democratic organization.

We have in a few instances overdrawn the appropriations; but it was in that class of cases, where the exigency seemed to require it. We are aware that cases will arise where good economy requires an expenditure beyond the grant. When the town orders a specific thing to be done, and appropriates a sum to meet the expense, the party charged with the execution of that trust, would be justified even in law, in performing the act, though the expense might exceed the grant; though in all such cases, common prudence would require that the sense of the town be taken, if it can be done conveniently; or that the case be laid before the Board entrusted by the town with discretionary power in such cases. The Selectmen saw or thought they saw, that cases would arise in which the appropriations would not meet the expenditure; and to avoid any assumption of power, we caused the subject to be presented to the town, and stated the probable deficit in certain cases. The town, being unwilling to increase the rate of taxation, and hoping that the sum to be obtained from the State on the Bank and Corporation tax, and the State Aid refund, would prove sufficient, passed the

subject by ; and so virtually left us to act, under the trust already imposed of exceeding the appropriations, where the case seemed to require it.

The cases where we have exceeded the appropriations, were cases, where true economy required the expenditure. In the case of the culverts across the highways, in connection with the draining of the meadows ; we found it necessary to make the culverts larger and sink them deeper, than was at first contemplated ; and as common prudence and good economy both required that the work should be done faithfully, so as to last for generations, we felt called upon to exceed the appropriation for the culverts. Nearly the same remarks will apply to the new streets near the village. We were directed to cause them to be made agreeably to a Report which had been adopted by the town. Here we had nothing to do but to carry out the vote of the town. We let them out to the lowest bidders, and when the sums contributed by individuals,* shall have been paid in, the expense will not vary materially from the appropriation. The drafts made upon the contingent fund, being considerably in excess of that grant, require a brief explanation. By a standing vote of the town the Selectmen have been empowered to procure gravel pits, for the repairs of the Highways. An opportunity presented itself, and a pit was obtained of Mr. Prosser, which we deemed for the interest of the town. This arrangement took \$400 from the contingent fund ; and a sum of about \$440, was paid for the support of Mrs. Abbott at the Lunatic Hospital, and was drawn from the same grant. These two items, neither of which could have been anticipated when the grant was made, absorbed more than one-quarter of the contingent appropriation.

There was an appropriation of \$3,000 to supply deficiencies. This being a new grant, and finding it difficult to determine where deficiencies would arise, till the end of the

*After our contracts were made, Samuel B. Rindge, Esq., of Cambridge, who owned land bordering on the street, generously tendered us \$75.00, which we accepted and have paid into the Treasury.

year, we deemed it more simple to draw from the contingent fund, knowing that in adjusting the accounts of the town, the result would be the same, as though we attempted to dissect the accounts, and decide what appertains to deficiencies, and what does not. We are free to admit that we found it difficult to decide where a deficiency existed. A certain grant has an undrawn balance; but we know that there are outstanding bills which appertain strictly to that grant, which may or may not absorb the balance. A bill is presented of a mixed character, which might be drawn from that grant or possibly from the deficiency grant. If we draw it from the latter, it may turn out that the outstanding bills when they come in, still leave a small balance under that grant, so in fact a confusion arises which would be avoided by drawing in all doubtful cases from one *single*, viz.: the contingent grant.

As the law of the State and the usage of the town have practically made the Selectmen guardians of the public weal, and as the guards, now placed around the treasury have originated with the Selectmen from time to time, we on whom devolves the duty of seeing that the public funds are securely kept and wisely expended, would urge upon our fellow-citizens a strict observance of the following wholesome rules and regulations:—

1st. That the different classes of town officers make a report and present to the town at the annual Meeting, a full estimate of the wants of their departments respectively, for the ensuing year.

2d. That the parties having the charge of any work requiring the expenditure of money, shall confine themselves within the sum appropriated for that object, unless they obtain in advance, the consent of the Selectmen to expend a larger sum.

3d. That the Selectmen shall not draw orders upon the treasury, unless they are satisfied, that the sum asked for has already been expended, or that the money is wanted for immediate use.

4th. That those who disburse the public money, shall settle with the Selectmen often; and that the Selectmen shall examine thoroughly the condition of the Treasury once a quarter, and as much oftener as they may deem it expedient to ensure the safety of the public funds; and that they shall at these examinations, ascertain where the funds are, and whether they are available at all times.

These rules faithfully carried out, cannot fail to produce a salutary effect. In this opinion the Selectmen are a *unit*. They are also *unanimous* in the opinion that the public interest should be more carefully guarded; and that an effort should be made to reduce our expenditures, if it can be done without detriment to our general welfare. We would recommend a medium between a niggardly and a profligate policy, so as to promote the best interests of the town. As to the best mode of securing these desirable ends, the members of the Board, like other independent men who think for themselves, differ somewhat in opinion. But while they have the manliness to think and judge for themselves, they have the liberality to be willing to submit the whole matter to the decision of their fellow-citizens, and to abide cheerfully by their decision.

The subject of naming the new streets near the village, was referred to the Selectmen with instructions to give them historic names:—We have attended to that duty, and report in this connexion, that their names may become more public than they would, if the report had been made in the ordinary way. The street commencing on Main street, near the house of Mrs. Lucy Spaulding, and terminating on Forest street, we have named CLARKE STREET; the street laid out on land of Mr. R. D. Blinn, commencing on Monument street, and terminating on Forest, at the foot of Clarke street, we have named PARKER STREET; and the cross street from Muzzey street, near the house of L. G. Babcock, to Clarke street, we have named RAYMOND STREET. On the

continuation of Forest street from Muzzey street to Clarke street, we have retained the name, so that FOREST STREET may be regarded as extending from Waltham street to the junction of Clarke and Parker streets. As the policy of the town seems to be to erect boards, bearing the names of the streets at ends thereof, we have ordered signs for that purpose to be prepared, which are ready to be erected.

We are also required by the statute and the vote of the town, to present to our fellow-citizens, a statement of the condition of the Guide Boards, in order that they may be kept in repair.

We therefore, report, that the Guide Boards and Street Signs are, in some parts of the town, to a considerable degree, destroyed or so marred as to require new boards. Wanton boys or lawless sportsmen seem to have made our guide boards a target for their stones and shot—showing a low state of civilization in the perpetrators of this wanton mischief. To make our report practical, it is necessary to state the lettering required, and the direction the hand should point. Where the hand should point to the *right* on the board, we designate it by the letter R., and where the hand should point to the *left* by L.

Guide Boards should be erected in the following places :—

1. Guide Board on the corner of Monument and Wood streets, to be lettered "Bedford 3½ M." R.
2. Guide Board at the corner of Lincoln and Weston streets, lettered "Weston 8 M." L.
3. Guide Board at the corner of School and Marrett street, on post, lettered "Both Roads to Boston 12 M." R.
4. Guide Board at the corner of Concord Avenue and Waltham street, lettered "Belmont 6 M." R. Also at same place on board, lettered "Waltham 2½ M." R. "Lexington 2 M." L.
5. Guide Board at the corner of Concord Avenue and Blossom street, lettered "Lexington 2 M." L.
6. Guide Board at the corner of Lowell and Maple streets, lettered "East Lexington 1 M." R.

7. Guide Board at the corner of Lowell and East streets, lettered "Woburn 3 M." L. "Lexington 2 M." R.
8. Guide Board at the corner of Lowell and North streets, (near Packard's), lettered "Lexington 2 M." R.
9. Guide Board at Gibbs' Corner and Adams street, lettered "Lexington 1½ M." L.
10. Guide Board on Burlington street, at Eben Simond's place, lettered "Burlington 3 M." L. "Lexington 2 M." R.
11. Guide Board at the corner of Hancock and Burlington streets, lettered "Burlington 3½ M." R.
12. Guide Board at the corner of Adams and East streets, lettered "Woburn 4 M." R.
13. Guide Board on the old Ash Tree near Mrs. Stetson's, lettered "Burlington 5 M." R.

We also find the following Street Signs wanting, which should be lettered with the names of the streets as here given, and marked in *italics* to distinguish the name from other streets:—

1. *Elm Avenue.*
2. *Cedar Street*, near Mr. Rogers'.
3. One at each end of *School Street.*
4. One on *Monument Street* at Lincoln line.
5. One at each end of *Marrett Street.*
6. One on *Concord Avenue* at Lincoln line.
7. One on *Waltham Street* on Waltham line.
8. One at each end of *Watertown Street.*
9. One at *Valley Street* on Watertown street.
10. One on Main street, corner of *Bow Street.*
11. One at each end of *East Street.*
12. One at each end of *Lowell Street.*
13. One on *North Street* at Burlington line.
14. One at the Eben Simonds place on Burlington street, *Grove Street.*
15. One on *Bedford Street* at Bedford line.
16. One at each end of *Cross Street.*
17. One on Bedford street, corner of *Hill Street.*

18. One at each end of *Flint Street*.

19. One at each end of *Allen Street*.

We have not confined ourselves to the places where Guide Boards and Street Signs have been heretofore established, but have recommended several erections where there has been none heretofore, but where it seems to us to be necessary.

With reference to the suit brought against the town by Mr. Gleason, for the sum of \$10,000, for an injury alleged to have arisen from a defect in the Highway, we will say, that we have examined the subject in all its bearings, and are confident that he cannot sustain his action. We have engaged able counsel, and if the case is properly gotten up, we have no reasonable doubt of our success.

The most interesting department of our municipal affairs, is that which relates directly to the Treasury; for if this does not come to the hearts, it does to the pockets of the people; and hence should be constantly guarded. The resignation of the Treasurer early in the season, and the election of another in his stead, necessarily created some confusion in the accounts of the town; but it is believed that no portion of the town's funds has been lost. But this unsettled state of things rendered it necessary to resort to loans, earlier than would have been necessary under other circumstances; as will appear in our first settlement with the Treasurer.

Our first examination of the accounts of the Treasurer, Isaac N. Damon, showed, that he had received up to June 1st, from loans,

\$9,500 00

And other sources,

83 25

Total,

\$9,583 25

And that he had paid on town orders, \$8,471 60

And for interest on notes,

430 91

8,902 51

Leaving a balance in the Treasury June 1, of

\$680 74

On the thirteenth of June 1873, the affairs of the Treasury were so far adjusted, that the Books were passed over to Mr. Damon, the new Treasurer; and at the request of the Assessors, there was committed to him as collector, a list of uncollected taxes for 1872, amounting to \$742.59.

Our next examination of the books and accounts of the Treasurer was early in September, when we found that on the last day of August inclusive, he had received since the last settlement,

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| From loans, | \$10,000 00 |
| “ the late Treasurer, | 2,923 23 |
| “ last year's taxes collected, | 500 00 |
| “ the State, for corporation tax, | 236 77 |
| “ the City of Charlestown, error in account, | 110 77 |
| “ taxes of 1873, | 1,000 00 |
| “ rent of Town Hall and other sources, | 93 07 |
| Balance on hand at last settlement, | 680 74 |

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| Making a total of | <u>\$15,544 58</u> |
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And that he had paid out during the same period, on town orders, &c., as follows:—

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| On Highway | grant, | \$1,197 50 |
| “ School | “ | 3,030 09 |
| “ School Repairs | “ | 444 29 |
| “ Pauper | “ | 200 00 |
| “ Specials, | “ | 1,946 87 |
| “ Contingent | “ | 814 79 |
| “ Culverts and Drainage, | “ | 2,263 23 |
| “ State Aid | “ | 90 50 |
| “ Fire Department | “ | 30 00 |
| Interest on Notes, | | 1,856 00 |
| | | <u>11,873 27</u> |

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| Balance in the Treasury Sept. 1, 1873, of | <u>\$3,671 31</u> |
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The next examination we made of the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Collector, was on the 31st of October, and showed as follows:—

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| That there was committed to him for collection the tax bill of 1873, comprising | \$47,224 36 |
| And that he had collected of that sum, | 1,742 74 |

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| Leaving, exclusive of \$1,000.00 collected before the last settlement, Aug. 31, uncollected, | \$44,481 62 |
| We also found that there was committed to him for collection, on the tax bill of 1872, | \$742 59 |
| That the Assessors had abated | \$105 12 |
| And that he had collected the rest, viz: | 637 47 |
| | <hr/> 742 59 |

Which settles this account.

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| We also found that there was committed to him for collection a Sidewalk tax against certain individuals, of | \$378 82 |
| And that he had collected | 26 67 |

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| Leaving uncollected Nov. 1, | \$352 15 |
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Our settlement with the Treasurer Oct. 31, showed as follows:—

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| Balance at last settlement, | \$3,671 31 |
| Received from the Collector, | 2,742 74 |
| “ “ Loans, | 4,500 00 |
| “ “ Sidewalk tax, | 149 87 |
| “ “ Rent of Rooms in Town Hall, | 41 00 |

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| Making a total of | \$10,104 92 |
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And that he had paid out on town orders, &c.,

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|------------------------|----------------|
| On Contingent grant, | \$ 746 10 |
| “ Specials | “ 2,190 35 |
| “ Highway | “ 900 00 |
| “ Drainage and Culvert | “ 1,558 63 |
| “ School Repairs | “ 1,920 71 |
| “ Pauper | “ 250 00 |
| “ State Aid | “ 95 00 |
| Interest on Notes, | 452 65 |
| | <hr/> 8,113 44 |

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| Leaving a balance in the Treasury of | \$1,991 48 |
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We also found that this sum of \$1,991.48, was deposited as follows :—

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| In his Safe, | \$1,200 00 |
| In Boston Banks, as per Bank Books, | 791 48 |
| | ————— \$1,991 48 |

At the same interview, we examined the list of Notes given by the town, especially those given for loans made temporarily, in anticipation of the taxes. As several of these were about to mature, we deemed it best to defer any particular statement of them, till our next examination of his accounts, at the end of the fiscal year, when the whole subject of the finances of the town, and of her indebtedness, will naturally come up, for a full examination.

LEXINGTON, Jan. 31, 1874.

The Selectmen have this day examined the accounts of I. N. Damon, Collector of taxes, and find that he has collected since the last examination (Oct. 31), the sum of

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| | \$40,351 78 |
| Leaving uncollected | 4,209 80 |

We also found that he had collected on the Sidewalk tax, since Oct. 31

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| | \$239 40 |
| Leaving uncollected | 112 75 |

We have also examined the books and accounts of I. N. Damon, Treasurer, and find that he has in addition to the balance in his hands at the last settlement, Oct. 31, received the following sums from the following sources :—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Amount received from last settlement, | \$ 2,456 49 |
| From Sidewalk tax, | 239 40 |
| “ Rent of Town Hall, | 196 37 |
| “ Taxes of 1873, | 40,351 78 |
| Balance on hand at last examination, | 1,991 41 |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Total receipts, | ————— \$45,235 45 |
|-----------------|-------------------|

And that he has paid out :—

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| On Highway | grant, | \$1,060 00 |
| “ School | “ | 4,819 91 |
| “ Pauper | “ | 1,323 40 |
| “ State Aid | “ | 124 00 |
| “ Fire Department, | “ | 112 68 |
| “ Culverts and drainage, | “ | 1,519 08 |
| Amount paid as interest, | | 1,233 86 |
| “ “ State tax, | | 3,375 00 |
| “ “ County tax, | | 1,922 72 |
| “ “ Special grants, | | 2,683 26 |
| “ “ Contingent grants, | | 1,339 04 |
| “ “ Temporary loans, | | 21,500 00 |
| | | <hr/> \$41,012 95 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Leaving a balance in his hands of | \$4,222 50 |
| Of this sum there was deposited in the | |
| Lexington Savings Bank, | \$2,008 00 |
| Commonwealth Bank, Boston, | 1,588 10 |
| Cash on hand, | 626 40 |
| <hr/> \$4,222 50 | |

To show the full amount of the money that has been received and disbursed by the Treasurer from April 24, 1873, to January 31, 1874 both inclusive, we give the following recapitulation :—

I. N. DAMON, *Treas., in account with the Town of Lexington, from April 24, 1873, to Jan. 31, 1874.*

| DEBTOR. | | CREDITOR. | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| To amount received of the Selectmen, | \$ 2,500 00 | By amount paid for repairs of Roads by orders of Selectmen, | \$ 4,357 50 |
| " " from Temporary Loans, | 21,500 00 | " " Support of Schools " " | 7,850 00 |
| " " " C. Brown, Esq., for burial of Mr. Wentworth, | 15 00 | " " Rep's of S. Houses, &c., " " | 3,865 00 |
| " " " L. G. Babcock, Treasurer for 1872, | 2,923 23 | " " Support of the Poor, " " | 2,373 40 |
| " " " City of Charlestown, a bill twice paid, | 110 77 | " " paid as Interest and discount, " " | 3,973 42 |
| " " " P. Harrington, of Burlington, schooling children, | 9 00 | " " for Contingent expenses, " " | 3,474 15 |
| " " " the uncollected taxes of 1872, | 637 47 | " " as State Aid, " " | 374 13 |
| " " " " State as Corporation tax, | 798 57 | " " Temporary Loans, | 24,000 00 |
| " " " " " State Aid, | 516 00 | " " for support of Fire Department, | 974 18 |
| " " " " " National Bank tax, | 585 31 | " " Culver's and Drainage, | 5,340 94 |
| " " " an abated Poll tax, | 2 00 | " " Special and particular purposes, | 8,021 73 |
| " " of Amos Stone, Esq., County Treasurer, interest on County tax, | 12 61 | " " as State Tax, | 3,375 00 |
| " " " Assignees of Manufacturers' Ins. Co., | 98 87 | " " County Tax, | 1,922 72 |
| " " for Sidewalk Improvements, | 266 07 | " " Cash in hand this, January 31st, 1874, | 4,222 50 |
| " " from Town Hall and Rooms, | 371 87 | | |
| " " " Taxes of 1873 overdue as interest, | 88 01 | | |
| " " " Collection of taxes for 1873, | 43,093 00 | | |
| " " " the Public Scales, | 72 69 | | |
| " " " S. B. Rindge, Esq., Street impr'v'm't, | 75 00 | | |
| " " " Surveyors of Highways—unexpended balance, | 188 91 | | |
| " " " Maple Street,—unexpended balance, | 7 25 | | |
| " " " " for Covering Stone, | 81 00 | | |
| " " " the State as income of Mass. Sch'l f'nd, | 166 84 | | |
| " " " " Hampton Minstrels, | 5 00 | | |
| | \$74,124 67 | | \$74,124 67 |

We have examined with more than ordinary care, the notes given for loans in anticipation of the collection of taxes, to ascertain whether they were made payable, as early as the means in the treasury would be sufficient to redeem them, and whether they were redeemed, as soon as practicable. We know that a Treasurer, unless his notes are examined, might let such notes run on, and thus through negligence subject the town to the payment of interest, when the treasury was full; or what is worse, permit these notes to remain unpaid, that funds might accumulate in his hands, so that he could use them himself, or loan them to friends, he enjoying the interest. We are prepared to say that we found the notes judiciously given and promptly redeemed. We have also required that the balances at each settlement be shown either in cash or in a certificate from the bank where the funds have been deposited. In this way we believe that we have acquired all reasonable assurance, that the town's funds are secure. And it is but justice to say that the Treasurer has not only shown a willingness to have his accounts scrutinized, but has put his books and accounts in such a condition as to be easily understood, and has invited, rather than shunned close investigation. In relation to collections, we would simply say, that the taxes being higher than ordinary, and the money market being quite stringent, the collections have not been pressed with as much earnestness as they have been under other circumstances; and the fact that the delinquents are now required by a vote of the town to pay a high rate of interest on the tax unpaid, saves the town from any loss by the delay, where the party is known to be responsible.

We have seen that the balance in the Treasury on settlement was \$4,222.50, and that \$4,209.80 remained uncollected, making a total of \$8,432.30, nearly the whole of which will be realized. We are also able to say that by persevering efforts, followed up to the last, we have obtained \$2,000.00 by order of the County Commissioners, to relieve us in part, from the great expense of building the new road to-

wards Concord. The sum is less than it should have been, but small favors are thankfully received. In this connection we will mention the \$4,200.00 advanced by the town to accomplish the drainage of the meadows, which is not to be regarded as a town debt, but as a loan to the land-holders. There are also \$200.00 due the town by Reed & Raymond on the roads near the village. In the same connection, we will mention that the Middlesex Central Railroad Company owe the town the sum of \$500.00 towards the construction of culverts through their road. These united would give us in round numbers \$15,300.00 surplus.

But upon this sum there are several demands to meet the expenses of the past year, and others which will be made early the coming season. Our permanent or funded debt has been reduced \$2,000.00, leaving it \$56,400.00. We ought in justice to be reducing that debt. We would suggest the propriety of devoting the two thousand dollars we have received from the Concord concern to that purpose.

Our prospective expenses will be, perhaps, higher than ordinary. The widening of Hancock and Adams streets, which has been ordered by the Commissioners will call for a considerable sum, and the proposed widening of Main street, in our village will require another appropriation. Nor can we consistently neglect the call of the Engineers for hose. The want of Reservoirs for water needs only to be alluded to. The simple fact is, our Fire Department without hose, and Reservoirs, is nearly useless. The Adams Engine House is in such a condition as to require material repairs and enlargement; or what probably would be wiser and better, it should be superseded by a new building, sufficient to furnish a Hall for the accommodation of the Company, as well as room to store the Engine.

We have been thus full and particular in our Report, because we have deemed it desirable that our fellow-citizens should, at their first meeting of the year, have before them the principal subjects which will require their attention for the season—that they may see what the wants of the several

Departments are, and when the town has decided upon the gross amount it can raise, they will be able to grant to each Department its due proportion according to its merits.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES HUDSON, } *Selectmen*
L. S. PIERCE, } *of*
B. C. WHITCHER, } *Lexington.*

REPORT OF THE ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

LEXINGTON, Feb. 3, 1874.

The undersigned, Engineers of the Fire Department, submit to the town the following Inventory of the town's property, with an estimate of the sum requisite to keep the same in a good condition the ensuing year :—

INVENTORY OF THE TOWN'S PROPERTY IN THE CUSTODY OF

THE ADAMS ENGINE COMPANY, No. 1:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Engine & Hose Carriage. | 1 Strainer. |
| 700 feet of Leading Hose. | 1 Saddle. |
| 4 Links Suction “ | 1 Loring Pipe. |
| 5 pairs of Overalls. | 3 Axes. |
| 7 Oil Cloth Coats. | 1 Cylinder Stove & Funnel. |
| 13 Spanners and 4 belts. | 1 Large Stove. |
| 7 Lanterns. | 4 Torch Lamps. |
| 1 Feather Duster. | 1 Shovel. |
| 2 Setts of Harnesses. | 2 Settees. |
| 2 Blunderbuss Pipes. | |

This Company consists of forty Members.

INVENTORY OF THE TOWN'S PROPERTY IN THE CUSTODY OF
THE HANCOCK ENGINE COMPANY, No. 2.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Engine and Hose Carriage. | 200 feet good Leading Hose. |
| 3 Axes. | 450 " old " " |
| 5 Buckets. | 25 " Suction " |
| 1 harness, with 2 sets hames. | 5 Suction Spanners. |
| 3 Old Torches. | 18 Leading " |
| 4 Kerosene Lanterns. | 6 Spanner Belts. |
| 6 Oil Suits. | 1 Suction Strainer. |
| 1 Packing Wrench. | 1 Double L'ding Coupling. |
| 1 Monkey " | 1 Wheel Jack. |
| 1 Iron Shovel. | 1 Fire Hook & 6 ft. chain. |
| 1 Watering Pot. | 9 Settees. |
| 1 Iron Bar. | 6 Spittoons. |
| 2 Tin Boilers. | 1 Parlor Stove. |
| 1 Feather Duster. | 1 Cylinder " |
| 1 Scrubbing Brush. | 35 feet Funnel. |
| 1 Stove Brush. | 1 Coal Hod. |
| 1 Coal Shovel, (broken). | 40 feet Rope in Hose Tower. |
| 1 pair Tongs and Poker. | 1 gallon Oil Can. |
| 1 Broom. | 1½ gallon Oil Can. |
| 1 Brush. | 1 pair Lamp Scissors. |
| ½ Ton of Coal. | 1 Water Pail. |

This Company consists of forty-two Members.

✓ The Engineers would earnestly urge the necessity of providing Reservoirs for the supply of water. In the Centre Village more especially, there is not a well, which would in a dry time when water is mostly needed, supply an Engine eight minutes. An Engine without water would be useless at any fire. We need several good Reservoirs. We would say more, but as this whole subject is in the hands of a competent Committee, we forbear. The wants of the Department at the present time are considerable. The Engine House in the East Village, is in an unsafe condition, and requires immediate attention. But here again, a Committee has the matter in charge, and it would seem indelicate for

us to enlarge upon the subject. There are, however, certain things which come under our especial attention, that we will present for the consideration of the town.

Both of our Engines require painting to preserve them from decay. We have a quantity of old hose which cannot be relied upon, and should be superceded by new. The aggregate quantity for the two Companies, should be about 750 feet. The Hancock Company stand in need of 70 or 80 feet of rope. These are the principal things which will require any considerable outlay of money. There will of course be some incidental repairs which cannot be foreseen, which must be met when they occur. We estimate the expenses the coming year as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Pay of 82 men at \$10.00, | \$ 820 00 |
| 750 feet of Hose, | 1,237 50 |
| Painting the Engines, | 200 00 |
| Incidentals, | 600 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total, | \$2,857 50 |

We have, on the whole, been very fortunate in the past year, in relation to fires. We have had nothing that can compare with the sweeping conflagrations with which many towns have been visited.

The Adams Company has been called out but *three* times since last May, viz., July 5, July 6, and December 5.

The Hancock Company has been called out to fires but *four* times, and two of these were to arrest fires in the woods. The dates were May 26, June 27, July 5, and August——.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| WILLIAM HAM, | } <i>Engineers</i> |
| SAML. W. HENDLEY, | |
| BENJAMIN HADLEY, | |
| | <i>of the</i> |
| | <i>Fire Department.</i> |

CONSTABLE'S REPORT.

We beg leave to make the following report for the year ending January 31st, 1874:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| The whole number of arrests, | 69 |
| For being intoxicated and disorderly, | 16 |
| “ Drunkenness, | 25 |
| “ Assault, | 7 |
| “ Disturbing the peace, | 8 |
| “ Keeping Disorderly Houses, | 2 |
| “ Theft, | 1 |
| Tramps, | 10 |
| Total, | — 69 |

The present force consists of two Constables, and two Special Police. The cost for maintaining them for the year ending January 31st, 1874, was about \$250.00.

The number of arrests was larger than usual the past year from the increase of business, such as the Railroad extension, &c., it having brought an unusual number of laborers here—mostly foreigners, and without homes.

We would recommend that the sum of not less than \$300.00 be appropriated for the ensuing year. Also, we would recommend that a book or register be kept at the Station, so that arrests, and the nature of them may be recorded therein; also, that the force be organized by the choice of a Chief, and that no bills be paid unless approved by him.

JOSHUA HOBART, }
ELI SIMONDS, } *Constables.*

CARY LIBRARY.

The Trustees of Cary Library report that the number of bound volumes in the Library January 31st, 1874, was 3,600. The number added during the past year was 604, of which 524 were purchased, and 80 were donated. The names of the donors are: J. L. Chandler, Esq., Memphis, 22 vols.; Mrs. M. E. Bennett, 3 vols.; Hon. C. Hudson, 5 vols.; O. P. Mills, Esq., 2 vols.; H. Westcott, 8 vols.; G. D., of Eastern N. Y., S. of T., 1 vol.; Farmers' Club, 2 vols.; First Cong'l Society, 37 vols.

The Library has received donations of unbound Magazines from Hon. C. Hudson, H. B. Brigham, Esq., Mr. C. A. Wellington, and H. Westcott; also, pamphlets and a map of Lexington, from O. P. Mills, Esq. The number of Volumes taken from the Library during the past year was 12,137. At the annual examination of the Library, it was found that no volumes had been lost, and that the books were generally in good condition.

The circulation of books during the past year was about 33 per cent. greater than that of the previous year. While this increasing interest in the Library must be a source of gratification to every citizen; while it furnishes the best evidence of the wisdom of sustaining such an institution in the town, it also reminds us that this interest might be still further increased by offering additional facilities in the use of books.

It has been suggested to the Trustees by some of the citizens of the town, that the privileges of the Library would be very generally extended, by opening the Library room

three days in a week instead of two, and by closing at 9 o'clock P. M. instead of 8; and the consideration of this subject by the town, is recommended by the Trustees.

In order to continue the proper classification of books so necessary for the usefulness of the Library, an additional book-case is now required. The Trustees recommend an appropriation by the town, sufficient to meet this expense.

HENRY WESTCOTT,
For the Trustees.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer of Cary Library charges himself as follows:—

Note of the Town of Lexington, Aug.

29, 1868, 7 per cent., \$1,000 00

Note of the Town of Lexington, Feb.

28, 1871, 7 per cent., 5,000 00

Deposit in Lexington Savings Bank, 100 00

Cash on hand Feb. 1, 1873, 85,64

“ received—Fines, 22 00

“ “ —Town Appropriation, 40 00

“ “ —Dog Tax, 244 80

“ “ —Interest on Notes, 420 00

————— \$6,912 44

And credits himself with payments

on account of books, \$ 726 12

Credit on account of Expensés, 26 50

By Notes and Deposit Book, 6,100 00

By Cash on hand at date, 59 82

————— \$6,912 44

A. E. SCOTT, *Treasurer.*

February 1, 1874.

HIGHWAY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Highway Surveyors for the year ending January 31, 1874, submit the following Report:—

The expenditures have been—

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|
| Cash paid, as per bills for Highway, | \$3,622 62 | |
| “ removal of snow, | 883 97 | |
| “ per bills of former Board, | 908 61 | |
| “ Selectmen on settlement, | 188 91 | |
| | <hr style="width: 100px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: bottom; margin-right: 10px;"/> | 5,604 11 |

The receipts have been:—

| | | |
|--|--|------------|
| From Town Treasurer, | \$4347 50 | |
| For labor of horses and men, | 338 50 | |
| From Town Treasurer, paid to former Board, | 908 61 | |
| | <hr style="width: 100px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: bottom; margin-right: 10px;"/> | \$5,594 61 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Due the Surveyors, | \$ 9 50 |
| The Highway property consists of 3 horses, 4 carts, 2 snow-ploughs, 3 cart harnesses, 2 lead harnesses, picks, shovels, bars, drills, hammers, and the appraised value is | <hr style="width: 100px; display: inline-block; vertical-align: bottom; margin-right: 10px;"/> \$935 72 |

The Highway Surveyors recommend the sum of forty-five hundred dollars for the repairs of Highways, and five hundred dollars for the removal of Snow for the present year.

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| ELI SIMONDS, J. P. REED, JOSHUA HOBART, | } | <i>Highway Surveyors.</i> |
|---|---|-------------------------------|

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

The Overseers of Poor of Lexington for the year ending January 31, 1874, submit the following Report:—

| | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Amount of orders drawn for the Almshouse Department by the former Board, | \$ 313 81 | |
| Cash received from A. W. Locke, as guardian, Trask and Robinson, | 22 10 | |
| Amount of orders drawn by the present Board, | 2,372 91 | |
| Valuation of personal property Feb. 1, 1873, | 1,242 81 | |
| | <hr/> | \$3,951 63 |
| Cash received for income of Farm, | \$ 581 92 | |
| Valuation of personal property, Feb. 1, 1874, | 1,801 93 | |
| | <hr/> | 2,383 85. |
| | | <hr/> |
| Paid on account of Poor, | | \$1,567 78 |
| Paid on account of outside poor, | \$580 26 | |
| Bills of 1871 and 1872, | 570 26 | |
| | <hr/> | 1,150 52 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Cost of supporting poor at Almshouse, 335 weeks support have been furnished paupers at the Almshouse, average cost per week, | \$ 417 26 | |
| | | \$1 84 |
| Cost, including interest on Farm, “ | | 2 68 |
| Whole number of paupers at the Almshouse during the year, | | 167 |
| Of this number, there remained but one night, | | 160 |
| The average number is six and three-fifths. | | |

Almshouse property consists of one horse, four cows, two hogs, eighty hens, wagons, ploughs, chains, harnesses, and tools necessary to carry on the farm. The household property consists of thirteen beds and bedding, and all needed furniture for house, not as good in all respects as we could wish, but better than such institutions average. The appraised value is \$1,801.93.

The buildings are in good repair.

The outside aid furnished is large, and we see no prospect of it being less.

The keeping of the Superintendent on the Farm during the last year, has fully met our expectations, and we think the plan will be more profitable than part of the time on the highways. We would recommend that it be followed the next year.

At the commencement of the year we found a large amount of unpaid bills, which have been paid out of our appropriation. There is now in the hands of the Overseers, received since our last settlement with the Selectmen, ninety dollars, which properly should be credited to the income of the Farm.

We recommend the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars for the support of the poor for the present year.

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| ELI SIMONDS, | } <i>Overseers</i> |
| JOHN P. REED, | |
| JOSHUA HOBART, | |

of the Poor.

ASSESSORS' REPORT.

The Assessors of the town, in accordance with the vote of the inhabitants and the recommendation of the Selectmen, present the following:—

Much surprise has been manifested the past few years at the rapid increase of taxation, and much fault is found with the Assessors, who are supposed by many, to be the sole cause of the increase, and various methods have been proposed to mitigate the evil. One argument is that our valuation is too high, thereby subjecting the town to a larger State and County tax than a lower valuation. A reduction in the valuation is followed by a rise in the rate, and that is admitted by all to be high enough already. Another argument is that the valuation should be higher, thereby causing a reduction in the rate, and act as an inducement to bring people to settle among us, in the belief that the taxes are low. Others argue that each piece of property should be taxed for what the owners are willing to sell for, and in case any owner will not name any price, they should be taxed heavily; but it is only a *comparative* valuation that the Assessors are required to make for the purpose of assessment, and the whole secret is to be found in the amount of expenditure authorized by the town, and we invite an examination of the table to be found on page 55, by which it will be seen that since 1860 the expenditures of the town have increased in a much larger ratio than the valuation or the rate of taxation. Having no manufactures in our town, and few very wealthy people, we are deficient in personal property, as compared with the towns adjacent to us. Conse-

quently, the principal part of the tax has to be paid by the real estate owners. We are of opinion that much personal property escapes taxation, and that more time should be devoted to increasing our valuation in that respect.

The laws of the State provide that each inhabitant shall bring in to the Assessors a true list of all their estates subject to taxation, and blanks are distributed to enable persons to make statements which shall be in some measure, a guide to the Assessors, but by a large majority this notice is entirely disregarded, and many that are returned to the Assessors give no definite information on the subject.

We earnestly recommend every tax-payer to attend the annual meeting when the appropriations for the year are made, and by their vote help to decide the amount of money to be raised, remembering that the action of the voters on that day decides in a great measure, the amount of tax each individual will be called upon to pay the ensuing year; and also remembering that the Assessors, whoever they may be, are only the servants of the town, to apportion the amount so raised according to their best judgment and ability, and that a faithful performance of that duty is no easy task or enviable employment.

We estimate the expenses of the Assessors' Department for the year ensuing as follows :—

| | |
|--|----------|
| Books, Blanks, Stationery and Stamps, | \$ 25 00 |
| Traveling Expenses, | 20 00 |
| Copying Valuation for use of State and Town, | 30 00 |
| Pay of Assessors, | 375 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$450 00 |

Respectfully submitted.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| JOSEPH F. SIMONDS, | } <i>Assessors</i> <i>for 1873.</i> |
| WALTER WELLINGTON, | |
| LEONARD A. SAVILLE, | |

STATISTICS.

| YEAR. | POPULA- TION. | NUMBER OF POLLS. | VALUATION. | RATE OF TAX. | TOWN GRANT. | STATE TAX. | COUNTY TAX. |
|-------|------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1800 | 1,006 | 219 | \$356,052 | | | | |
| 1810 | 1,052 | 304 | 310,967 | | | | |
| 1820 | 1,200 | 306 | 234,369 | | | | |
| 1830 | 1,543 | 368 | 247,466 | | | | |
| 1840 | 1,642 | 489 | 561,549 | | | | |
| 1850 | 1,893 | 522 | 1,869,453 | | | | |
| 1860 | 2,329 | 581 | 1,762,145 | \$8 00 on \$1,000 | \$12,952 87 | \$497 50 | \$1,449 22 |
| 1861 | 2,329 | 615 | 1,762,037 | 8 00 " | 12,075 81 | 605 00 | 1,760 47 |
| 1862 | 2,329 | 592 | 1,745,644 | 9 50 " | 14,830 00 | 3,636 00 | 1,494 06 |
| 1863 | 2,329 | 624 | 1,832,344 | 10 00 " | 12,915 00 | 4,848 00 | 1,494 06 |
| 1864 | 2,329 | 558 | 1,687,348 | 15 00 " | 19,397 00 | 4,848 00 | 1,492 02 |
| 1865 | 2,223 | 585 | 1,670,963 | 16 50 " | 18,530 00 | 8,319 00 | 1,283 51 |
| 1866 | 2,223 | 598 | 1,701,655 | 14 00 " | 18,110 00 | 5,310 00 | 1,407 35 |
| 1867 | 2,223 | 601 | 1,770,468 | 15 50 " | 17,660 00 | 8,850 00 | 1,576 24 |
| 1868 | 2,223 | 620 | 1,999,137 | 14 00 " | 23,315 00 | 3,540 00 | 1,632 53 |
| 1869 | 2,223 | 609 | 1,966,876 | 12 50 " | 19,839 00 | 4,425 00 | 1,800 41 |
| 1870 | 2,377 | 629 | 2,254,831 | 13 50 " | 24,275 00 | 4,425 00 | 1,801 41 |
| 1871 | 2,377 | 618 | 2,324,750 | 16 00 " | 31,746 00 | 4,425 00 | 1,801 41 |
| 1872 | 2,389 | 638 | 2,536,011 | 16 00 " | 35,390 00 | 3,000 00 | 1,739 67 |
| 1873 | 2,296 | 706 | 2,863,285 | 16 00 " | 41,875 00 | 3,375 00 | 1,922 72 |

The valuation prior to 1840 was made on a basis different from that on which it has since been made.

THE TOWN DEBT FEBRUARY 1, 1874.

| DATE. | TO WHOM PAYABLE. | RATE OF INTEREST. | WHEN DUE. | AMOUNT. |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Aug. 29, 1866. | Middlesex Savings Institution..... | 7 per cent. semi-annually... | On demand | \$3,000 00 |
| June 8, 1868. | George Holden..... | 6½ " " " " " " " " " " " " | June 1, 1871 | 5,000 00 |
| July 27, 1868. | O. & W. B. Smith..... | 6 " " " " " " " " " " " " | On demand | 2,000 00 |
| " 31, 1868. | Trustees Lexington Ministerial Fund..... | 7 " " " " " " " " " " " " | " " " " " " " " " " " " | 3,000 00 |
| Aug. 10, 1868. | Emily Muzzey..... | 6½ " " " " " " " " " " " " | Aug. 10, 1871 | 1,100 00 |
| April 27, 1869. | George Holden..... | 6½ " " " " " " " " " " " " | April 27, 1872..... | 2,300 00 |
| Aug. 27, 1869. | Treasurer Cary Library..... | 7 " " " " " " " " " " " " | On demand | 1,000 00 |
| Oct. 8, 1869. | George Holden..... | 6½ " " " " " " " " " " " " | Oct. 8, 1872..... | 5,000 00 |
| Feb. 1, 1870. | George Holden..... | 7 " " " " " " " " " " " " | On demand | 2,000 00 |

Total Town Debt, independent of Town Hall Loan.....\$24,400 00

THE FOLLOWING IS THE LOAN FOR THE TOWN HALL AND SITE.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| June 1, 1870. | State of Massachusetts..... | } 7 per cent. for first five years, and 6 per cent. thereafter, semi-annually, | June 1, 1890..... | \$10,000 00 |
| July 1, 1870. | State of Massachusetts..... | | July 1, 1890..... | 5,000 00 |
| Aug. 1, 1870. | State of Massachusetts..... | | Aug. 1, 1890..... | 5,000 00 |
| Sept. 1, 1870. | State of Massachusetts..... | | Sept. 1, 1890..... | 5,000 00 |
| Feb. 28, 1871. | Treasurer of Cary Library..... | } 7 per cent. first four years, and 6 per cent. thereafter, semi-annually. | Feb. 28, 1887..... | 5,000 00 |
| July 11, 1871. | George Holden..... | 6½ per cent. annually..... | July 11, 1876..... | 1,800 00 |
| Sept. 28, 1881. | George Holden..... | 7 " " " " " " " " " " " " | Jan. 1, 1873..... | 200 00 |

Total Town Hall Debt\$32,000 00

AUDITORS' REPORT.

DRAINAGE.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Journal Newspaper Co., advertising, | \$ 2 50 |
| Boston Herald, “ | 3 00 |
| E. A. Mulliken, teaming, | 14 75 |
| Jessop Pond & Easton, lumber, | 64 36 |
| Darius Dow, teaming and help, | 263 25 |
| William Welch, laying wall and culverts, | 264 63 |
| J. R. Carter, survey and plans, | 322 75 |
| Charles Hudson, services, | 65 00 |
| O. M. Gallup & Co., use of derrick, | 48 00 |
| Patrick Ryan, stone, | 10 00 |
| Town of Lexington, stone, | 130 00 |
| H. B. Davis, use of cart, | 9 00 |
| Whitcher & Saville, sundries, | 31 94 |
| William Ham, smithing, | 14 34 |
| F. H. Kneeland, “ | 14 90 |
| C. A. Butters, sundries, | 9 40 |
| Joshua Hobart, for tools, &c., | 20 75 |
| “ “ labor of self and team, | 408 00 |
| Nathaniel Garmon, labor and help, | 503 90 |
| Harrison Pierce labor, | 41 62 |
| Eli Simonds, “ | 47 44 |
| Levi J. Smith, “ | 114 87 |
| Gershom Swan, “ | 2 59 |
| James Emery, “ | 72 00 |
| <hr/> | |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$2,478 99 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$2,478 99 |
| William Gleason, labor, | 6 50 |
| Sylvester Puffer, " | 8 25 |
| Thomas Quinn, " | 25 50 |
| Patrick Joy, " | 35 00 |
| Daniel Mullen, " | 37 00 |
| William Murphy, " | 163 75 |
| Frank Gaffney, " | 37 00 |
| Cornelius Conners, " | 138 25 |
| Michael Conners, " | 80 00 |
| George Conro, " | 10 00 |
| Stephen Conro, " | 10 00 |
| Michael Carroll, " | 35 00 |
| Daniel Harrington, " | 35 00 |
| Frederick Chalenor, " | 180 87 |
| John Harris, " | 53 00 |
| J. Wilson, " | 8 00 |
| John Devine, " | 20 00 |
| William Devine, " | 48 00 |
| R. J. Crowley, " | 40 50 |
| J. McCutchins, " | 22 00 |
| John O'Brien, " | 49 00 |
| Patrick Brennan, " | 82 00 |
| Patrick Keens, " | 5 50 |
| Thomas Keens, " | 5 00 |
| Thomas Keefe, " | 29 00 |
| David Dugan, " | 112 00 |
| Joseph Williams, " | 18 00 |
| Daniel Conroy, " | 113 00 |
| James Farrell, " | 29 00 |
| Michael Hurley, " | 18 00 |
| Martin Call, " | 42 00 |
| Jerry Shea, " | 27 00 |
| Nicholas Shea, " | 11 06 |
| G. H. Beaman, " | 8 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$4,021 17 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$4,021 17 |
| Francis Rafferty, labor, | 38 50 |
| Edward Fancy, " | 23 00 |
| John Lynch, " | 9 00 |
| John Vaughan, " | 96 75 |
| A. Dalrymple, " | 31 50 |
| Stephen Curran, " | 55 50 |
| Patrick Smith, " | 22 00 |
| Cornelius Ryan, " | 12 00 |
| Michael Hayes, " | 28 50 |
| Thomas Arnold, " | 20 00 |
| Edward Rice, " | 12 00 |
| Daniel Sheehan, " | 12 00 |
| Patrick Kneeland, " | 12 00 |
| John Leary, " | 11 00 |
| George Thompson, " | 10 00 |
| B. L. & N. R. R. Co., labor of men, | 38 25 |
| Edward Doane, labor, | 10 00 |
| John Burns, " | 12 00 |
| Patrick Maloney, " | 20 50 |
| Patrick Gilman, " | 38 00 |
| Jerry Reardon, " | 31 25 |
| Patrick Harrington, " | 28 00 |
| Thomas Casey, " | 58 00 |
| Michael Glancey, " | 44 00 |
| Barth'lm'w Reardon, " | 2 00 |
| Edward Bannon, " | 2 00 |
| Frank Barney, " | 22 75 |
| Timothy Buckley, " | 18 00 |
| Total Expense | \$4,739 67 |
| Less amount received from tools sold, | 17 50 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$4,722 17 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$4,722 17 |
| Amount to be paid by the Middlesex Central R. R. Co., towards culverts under their Railroad, | 500 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount to be assessed as betterments, | \$4,222 17 |
| Expended on Vine Brook Meadows, | \$2,435 08 |
| “ “ North “ | |
| less \$500 00 refunded by R. R. Co., | 1,787 09 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$4,222 17 |

HIGHWAYS.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for, 1873, | \$5,500 00 |
| Overseers of Poor, grain for horses, | 80 00 |
| Sale of meat block, | 10 00 |
| Labor of man and horses on Lincoln St. | 132 50 |
| “ horses on Maple St. | 117 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$5,839 50 |
| Amount of Expenditures, 1873, | \$5,415 20 |
| Balance unexpended 1st Feb. 1874, | 424 30 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$5,839 50 |

EXPENDITURES.

The following bills were contracted previous to Mar. 3, 1873, but, by a vote of the town, were paid out of the grant for 1873 :—

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| John A. Russell, smithing, | \$58 50 |
| William Ham, “ | 32 63 |
| A. Childs, sundries, | 96 57 |
| Whitcher & Saville, sundries, | 55 02 |
| Clark, Whitney & Co., lumber, | 56 24 |
| | <hr/> |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$298 96 |

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$298 96 |
| Hiram Clark, teaming, | 8 65 |
| Amos W. Locke, labor of self, horse, and men removing snow, | 171 00 |
| Joshua Hobart, cleaning sidewalks, | 70 50 |
| R. W. Reed, removing snow, | 5 00 |
| Jos. Spaulding, " " | 10 20 |
| Geo. F. Chapman, " " | 25 00 |
| Nicholas Shea, " " | 22 50 |
| Levi J. Smith, " " | 28 00 |
| E. E. Smith, " " | 28 00 |
| A. B. Smith, " " | 10 00 |
| A. N. Tufts, " " | 44 35 |
| John P. Reed, " " | 1 10 |
| Charles Wetherbee, " " | 1 10 |
| E. Hutchins, " " | 5 00 |
| Chas. Bruce, " " | 14 00 |
| W. Sanderson, " " | 2 00 |
| James King, " " | 14 00 |
| G. A. Page, " " | 2 00 |
| Daniel Mullen, " " | 17 50 |
| Wm. Murphy, " " | 22 50 |
| John Caldwell, " " | 10 00 |
| Thomas Quinn, " " | 16 50 |
| James Clifford, " " | 18 00 |
| F. Gaffeney, " " | 18 00 |
| B. Gaffeney, " " | 10 00 |
| Patrick Powers, " " | 14 00 |
| N. L. Bryant, " " | 31 50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$919 36 |
| Less, loam and dirt sold by N. L. Bryant in 1872, | 10 75 |
| | <hr/> |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$908 61 |

Amount brought forward, \$908 61

To which amount are to be added the
following bills, contracted since Mar.
3, 1873 :—

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| A. Childs, | sundries, | 48 54 |
| Whitcher & Saville, | " | 106 14 |
| R. W. Holbrook, | " | 97 27 |
| C. A. Butters, | " | 118 15 |
| F. H. Kneeland, | smithing, | 32 71 |
| W. Ham, | " | 50 82 |
| John A. Russell, | " | 13 23 |
| Josiah Smith, | " | 9 94 |
| H. P. Webber, | " | 11 12 |
| L. Lawrence, | repairing, | 30 68 |
| Wm. Brigham, | " | 11 75 |
| C. A. Mandelberg, | " | 6 00 |
| John Chisholm, | " | 1 25 |
| Gershom Swan, | drain pipe, | 31 00 |
| Patrick Ryan, | gravel, | 6 00 |
| Geo. T. Smith, | stone and gravel, | 15 86 |
| C. W. Johnson, | " " | 2 46 |
| C. Caldwell, | " " | 3 10 |
| Benj. Brown, | " " | 15 60 |
| W. H. & J. S. Munroe, | " " | 12 25 |
| C. M. Parker, | locust posts, | 20 00 |
| A. F. Hadley, | expressing, | 1 00 |
| Eli Simonds, | " | 1 20 |
| F. M. Harrington, | horse hire, | 1 50 |
| I. N. Damon, | Administrator, harness, | 1 70 |
| B. C. Whitcher, | removing limb of tree, | 3 00 |
| Benjamin Fiske, | blasting, | 1 50 |
| F. Alderman, | exchange of horses, | 50 00 |
| N. M. Harrington, | paint, | 0 72 |
| Wm. Gleason, | use of horse and cart, | 11 00 |
| B. L. & N. R. R. Co., | freight, | 1 20 |

Amount carried forward,

\$1,634 30

| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | | \$1,634 30 |
| Jessop, Pond & Easton, lumber, | | 20 08 |
| Isaac Reed, damages, | | 10 00 |
| John L. Parker, printing, | | 10 00 |
| Geo. T. Laughlin, stone hammer, | | 2 05 |
| Whittemore Bros., shovels, | | 8 00 |
| Ames Plough Co., casting. | | 4 50 |
| Park, Bro. & Co., cast steel, | | 3 15 |
| James Boyd & Sons, horse collar, | | 8 00 |
| Overseers of Poor, board of horses and man, and labor of farm horse, | | 341 78 |
| Harrison Peirce, labor, | | 263 82 |
| Levi J. Smith, " | | 57 50 |
| E. E. Smith, " | | 27 00 |
| A. B. Smith, " | | 10 80 |
| Webster Smith, " | | 10 00 |
| C. M. Parker, " Spring St., | | 20 00 |
| Alden Jameson, " Walnut St., | | 15 00 |
| J. B. Kendall, " | | 30 00 |
| M. H. Roberts, " | | 9 20 |
| Joseph Burton, " | | 2 80 |
| W. W. Hartwell, " | | 28 00 |
| C. W. Johnson, " | | 12 52 |
| Geo. F. Chapman, " | | 14 40 |
| Timothy Kincen, " | | 33 40 |
| Geo. H. Thurston, " | | 76 12 |
| A. N. Tufts, " | | 55 00 |
| Wm. L. Bennett, " | | 14 00 |
| Wm. Gleason, " | | 3 00 |
| Patrick Lynam, " | | 8 00 |
| Geo. Locke, " | | 3 12 |
| S. L. Haskell, " | | 4 00 |
| E. Spaulding, " | | 3 50 |
| Joseph Garmon, " | | 10 00 |
| John Buckley, " | | 10 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | | <hr/> \$2,763 04 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | | \$2,763 04 |
| James King, | labor, | 27 50 |
| Amos W. Locke, | " | 4 50 |
| Samuel Loaming, | " | 5 00 |
| O. M. Nason, | " | 9 00 |
| Jerry Reardon, | " | 1 00 |
| Wm. Leary, | " | 4 00 |
| Morgan O'Brien, | " | 10 00 |
| Sylvester Puffer, | " | 6 30 |
| J. L. Boardman, | " | 7 50 |
| O. M. & C. F. Winship, | labor, | 6 00 |
| Patrick Joy, | labor, | 203 25 |
| Daniel Mullen, | " | 207 00 |
| Frank Gaffeney, | " | 201 50 |
| Barney Caffrey, | " | 85 00 |
| Patrick Caffrey, | " | 6 00 |
| Daniel Harrington, | " | 213 00 |
| Wm. Murphy, | " | 153 25 |
| Thomas Quinn, | " | 235 50 |
| Valvord Thompson, | " | 90 00 |
| Timothy McDonald, | " | 6 00 |
| H. H. Tyler, | " | 2 00 |
| D. W. Sutton, | " | 21 50 |
| Michael Carroll, | " | 122 00 |
| Thomas Darling, | " | 6 20 |
| Peter Harrington, | " | 7 00 |
| D. McNamara, | " | 14 00 |
| J. Reardon, | " | 2 00 |
| James Farrell, | " | 2 00 |
| J. Callahan, | " | 2 00 |
| Thomas Cosgrove, | " | 3 00 |
| Jerry Shea, | " | 2 00 |
| J. Simmin, | " | 6 00 |
| T. Arnold, | " | 6 00 |
| C. Donovan, | " | 4 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | | <hr/> \$4,444 04 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | | \$4,444 04 |
| James Clifford, | labor, | 11 50 |
| M. Burns, | " | 11 00 |
| Nicholas Shea, | " | 152 80 |
| Patrick Powers, | " | 17 10 |
| Michael O'Brien, | " | 6 00 |
| James McCann, | labor, | 5 00 |
| Daniel Buckley, | " | 2 80 |
| Edward Dincene, | " | 2 00 |
| Michael McGrath, | " | 2 00 |
| Cornelius Ryan, | " | 2 00 |
| Benjamin Fiske, | " | 3 00 |
| T. H. Packard, | " | 9 00 |
| T. H. Bowen, | " | 13 68 |
| Patrick Ryan, | " | 5 00 |
| Michael Hayes, | " | 2 00 |
| F. C. Brown, | " | 5 00 |
| Timothy Buckley, | " | 9 00 |
| Frederick Chalenor, | " | 11 31 |
| John McKenzie, | " | 7 50 |
| Daniel Conroy, | " | 2 00 |
| Cornelius Connors, | " | 14 87 |
| John Vaughan, | " | 31 50 |
| David Dugan, | " | 10 00 |
| Frank Barnes, | " | 1 75 |
| Thomas Lalca, | " | 5 00 |
| Patrick Keating, | " | 10 00 |
| Patrick Kalaher, | " | 1 75 |
| Eli Simonds, | clerk and treasurer, | 25 00 |
| Eli Simonds, | labor, | 148 50 |
| John P. Reed, | " | 163 77 |
| Joshua Hobart, | " and team, | 279 33 |

\$5,415 20

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

| | | |
|---|------------|------------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$3,000 00 | |
| Sale of produce, | 136 32 | |
| From Highway Surveyors, for pay for horses and labor of man, | 346 78 | |
| “ Highway Surveyors, labor of horse on Maple Street, | 19 50 | |
| “ Labor of Supt. on Wash Room at Poor House, | 4 00 | |
| Board of E. R. Smith, | 15 00 | |
| I. N. Damon, Guardian, | 22 10 | |
| John McKensie, board, | 48 42 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, old iron, | 4 35 | |
| Cash for nursing of W. McLean, | 8 00 | |
| A. Childs, goods returned, | 9 63 | |
| | | <hr/> \$3,614 10 |
| Amount of expenditures, | \$3,279 61 | |
| Balance unexpended 1st Feb., 1874 | 334 49 | |
| | | <hr/> \$3,614 10 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Whitcher & Saville, sundries, | \$314 71 |
| C. A. Butters, “ | 163 02 |
| A. Childs, “ | 75 34 |
| R. W. Holbrook, “ | 149 49 |
| O. G. Robinson, fish, | 18 73 |
| O. W. Eaton, “ | 52 12 |
| J. L. R. Eaton, meat, | 25 50 |
| J. E. Hodgman, “ | 57 88 |
| C. H. Lowe, “ | 58 38 |
| Niles Bros., ham, | 5 90 |
| J. Morton Reed, milk, | 5 35 |
| S. W. Hendley, “ | 5 00 |

Amount carried forward,

\$931 42

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$931 42 |
| C. C. Chamberlain & Co., butter, | 24 30 |
| W. Walcott, ice, | 18 00 |
| J. Hobart, turkeys, | 5 14 |
| Surveyors of Highways, grain for horse, | 80 50 |
| Amos W. Locke, potatoes, | 2 00 |
| Hovey, Butler & Co., “ | 14 90 |
| J. Hobart, “ | 12 00 |
| J. Hobart, hay and straw, | 120 97 |
| A. Hoitt & Sons, “ “ | 23 79 |
| C. M. Parker, meadow hay, | 12 72 |
| J. W. Peirce, coal, | 22 40 |
| H. Wellington & Co., “ | 75 04 |
| F. R. Dodge, sugar and syrup, | 16 85 |
| William Ham, smithing, | 9 77 |
| H. P. Webber, “ | 5 17 |
| F. H. Kneeland, “ | 12 30 |
| Josiah Smith, “ | 5 41 |
| John A. Russell, smithing, | 18 75 |
| Lyman Lawrence, repairing harness, &c., | 8 25 |
| Alonzo Goddard, stove, and sundries, | 63 03 |
| A. G. Babcock, medicines, &c., | 28 27 |
| G. W. Taylor, sundries, | 24 23 |
| E. P. Rich, “ | 65 44 |
| W. Brigham, wheelwrighting, | 34 71 |
| E. D. Skelton, pine wood, | 7 12 |
| Jas. Emery, sundries, | 16 41 |
| E. M. Emery, nursing, &c., | 10 00 |
| Johonnot & Saunders, brace and bit, | 4 25 |
| J. Breck & Sons, plough handle, | 1 25 |
| C. R. Richardson & Co., port wine, | 2 40 |
| L. G. Babcock, dog license, | 2 00 |
| Eli Simonds, travelling fees, | 10 75 |
| C. T. Worthley, express, | 6 50 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$1,696 04 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,696 04 |
| Tucker Manufacturing Co., iron bed, | 6 50 |
| Parker & Gannett, sundries, | 3 82 |
| Ebenezer Blaisdell, making cider, | 15 72 |
| O. W. Kendall, service as sexton, | 28 35 |
| Chas. H. Wood, two cows, | 72 00 |
| Thomas Wiseman, manure, | 5 75 |
| S. W. Page, “ | 12 00 |
| E. H. Brabrook, table, | 9 00 |
| Boston Herald, advertising, | 3 75 |
| John L. Parker, printing permits, | 2 00 |
| Hammon Reed, “ | 5 50 |
| A. F. Spaulding, repairing shoes, | 2 55 |
| Patrick Reynolds, hens, | 5 25 |
| John P. Reed, plough, | 12 00 |
| J. Leland, shafts, | 8 00 |
| F. M. Harrington, horse hire, | 4 50 |
| H. Holmes, medical attendance, | 19 50 |
| W. J. Currier, “ “ | 42 00 |
| A. E. Scott, legal papers, | 1 50 |
| Asa Cottrell, legal advice, | 8 00 |
| C. A. Mandelberg, whiffletree, | 0 75 |
| Barney Caffrey, labor, | 4 00 |
| Frank Gaffney, “ | 2 00 |
| Nicholas Shea, “ | 2 50 |
| John McKensie, “ | 32 00 |
| Patrick Powers, “ | 2 00 |
| Eli Simonds, services and sundries, 1873, | 67 50 |
| John P. Reed, “ “ “ | 29 60 |
| J. Hobart, “ “ “ | 43 75 |
| Amos W. Locke, services as chairman and clerk, 1872, | 60 00 |
| James Emery, services as Sup't, 2½ mos., | 126 00 |
| F. R. Dodge, services as Sup't, | 375 45 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$2,709 28 |

Amount brought forward, \$2,709 28

FOR OUTSIDE POOR.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Aid furnished to J. Logan and family, | 147 02 |
| “ “ Mrs. Purcell, | 148 95 |
| “ “ Wm. R. Hawkins, | 97 00 |
| “ “ Lydia Estabrook, | 16 50 |
| “ “ Mrs. Kenneston, | 15 25 |
| “ “ Matthew Egan, | 86 86 |
| “ “ Mrs. M. Doyle, | 20 00 |
| “ “ “ J. Doyle, | 10 50 |
| “ “ “ McGrath, | 12 25 |
| “ “ “ Crowley, | 5 50 |
| “ “ “ Desmond, | 5 50 |
| “ “ “ Vaughan, | 5 00 |

\$3,279 61

Bills of former Board to the amount of \$242.00, included in above for outside poor.

SCHOOLS.

INSTRUCTION, FUEL, AND CARE OF ROOMS.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$9,500 00 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ of School Fund for 1872, | 127 23 |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ “ “ “ “ 1873, | 125 13 |
| Excess of Expenditure, | 3 56 |

REPAIRS AND INCIDENTALS.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | 3,865 00 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|

Amount carried forward, \$13,620 92

| | |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$13,620 92 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ of School Fund for 1872, | 42 41 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ " " " " 1873. | 41 71 |
| Excess of Expenditures, | 24 36 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total cost of Schools from Feb. 1 1873, to Feb. 1 1874, | \$13,729 40 |
|--|-------------|

EXPENDITURES.

ADAMS SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| Silas Peabody, | Instruction, | \$1,200 00 |
| Gertrude Pierce, | " | 400 00 |
| C. F. Fiske, | " | 400 00 |
| J. W. Peirce, coal, | | 112 00 |
| Silas Peabody, expense of sawing wood, | | 8 00 |
| " " care of rooms, | | 75 00 |
| | | <hr/> \$2,245 00 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| J. L. Hunnewell, Crayons, &c., | \$ 11 81 |
| J. Chisholm, Leathering Box, | 2 10 |
| G. Cutting, Tuning Piano, | 5 50 |
| A. Childs, Door Mats, | 1 50 |
| A. C. Stockin, Books, | 12 00 |
| L. G. Babcock, " | 10 27 |
| S. Peabody, " and Stationery, | 3 67 |
| J. L. Hammett, Erasers, | 1 92 |
| C. F. Fiske, Pencils and Paper, | 1 58 |
| G. W. Nichols, Repairing Clock, | 2 00 |
| Alonzo Goddard, Sundries, | 12 45 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$64 80 |
|--------------------------------|---------|

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$64 80 | |
| L. S. Pierce, Repairs on Pump, &c., | 5 00 | |
| Curtis Capelle, Building Fence, &c., | 125 75 | |
| Oliver Brown, Painting Fence, | 35 00 | |
| Thomas Cosgrove, Grading, | 7 00 | |
| N. L. Hoit, labor, | 0 34 | |
| | <hr/> | 237 89 |

BOWDITCH SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Sarah E. Sturtevant, instruction, | \$225 62 | |
| Ada M. Frost, " " | 135 00 | |
| Lottie A. Brown, " " | 101 25 | |
| J. W. Peirce, coal, | 18 00 | |
| Edward Denine, sawing wood, | 4 78 | |
| Frank R. Whittemore. care of room, | 17 50 | |
| John Demar, " " | 3 50 | |
| Rebeca E. Hill, cleaning room, | 4 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 509 65 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| A. L. Ball, labor and material, | \$9 23 | |
| Whitcher & Saville, sundries, | 4 99 | |
| A. Goddard, coal hod, | 1 35 | |
| L. C. Babcock, books, | 1 70 | |
| Gershom Swan, labor and material, | 11 60 | |
| J. L. Hammett, ink wells and erasers, | 2 93 | |
| American Tablet Co., blackboards, &c., | 15 65 | |
| C. T. Worthley, expressing, | 0 50 | |
| | <hr/> | 47 95 |

FRANKLIN SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Mary E. Thompson, instruction, | \$450 00 | |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> | \$450 00 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$450 00 | |
| J. W. Peirce, coal, | 18 00 | |
| Mary E. Thompson, care of room, | 13 50 | |
| Kate Cashman, " " | 9 50 | |
| | <hr/> | 491 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|----|
| W. A. Fletcher, repairs, | \$3 32 | |
| L. G. Babcock, books, | 4 59 | |
| C. A. Butters, brooms, | 1 00 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, repairing funnell, | 2 00 | |
| School Committee, " pump, | 3 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 13 |

HANCOCK SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------|
| C. E. Washburn, instruction, | \$131 25 | |
| O. A. Flint, " | 825 00 | |
| Ellen B. Lane, " | 475 00 | |
| Fannie A. Hutchinson, " | 400 00 | |
| J. W. Pierce, coal, | 108 00 | |
| Eli Simonds, care of room, | 101 50 | |
| J. E. A. Mullekin, sawing wood, | 12 91 | |
| Hannah Canfield, cleaning room, | 7 83 | |
| Bessie Desmond, " " | 4 41 | |
| Delia Carroll, washing curtains, | 0 75 | |
| Michael O'Brien, labor, | 1 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 2,067 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Henry Mulliken, labor and material on extension, | \$1683 83 | |
| Hammon Reed, half cost of fence, south side, | 41 27 | |
| | <hr/> | |

Amount carried forward, \$1,725

| | | |
|--|------------|---------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,725 10 | |
| F. J. Winship, whitewashing, &c. | 2 50 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, sundries, | 16 44 | |
| Bogman & Vinal, hardware, | 3 37 | |
| J. S. Merriam, paint and labor, | 18 70 | |
| A. L. Ball, labor and material, | 23 43 | |
| T. H. Bowen, labor, | 18 17 | |
| R. W. Sherburne, glass, | 1 44 | |
| B. Gaffrey, labor, | 2 00 | |
| C. A. Butters, sundries, | 1 32 | |
| Geo. W. Nichols, clock, and repairing, | 11 25 | |
| American Tablet Co., blackboards, | 61 60 | |
| Knight, Adams & Co., slates, | 4 20. | |
| W. A. Wilde & Co., “ | 8 40 | |
| J. L. Hammett, erasers, | 5 85 | |
| G. Cutting, tuning piano, | 5 60 | |
| F. A. Hutchinson, cloth for curtains, | 1 00 | |
| A. C. Stockin, books, | 16 80 | |
| Thompson, Bigelow & Brown, “ | 10 80 | |
| L. G. Babcock, “ | 16 84 | |
| C. T. Worthley, expressing, | 2 75 | |
| School Committee, sundries, | 1 87 | |
| | <hr/> | 1959 43 |

HIGH SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| A. E. White, instruction, | \$1937 50 | |
| Louisa M. Thurston, “ | 550 00 | |
| J. W. Pierce, coal, | 171 00 | |
| Eli Simonds, care of building, | 80 75 | |
| Bessie Desmond, cleaning room, | 3 43 | |
| | <hr/> | 2742 68 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|
| A. L. Ball, labor and material, | 403 18 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | | \$403 18 |

| | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| <i>Amount brought forward</i> | \$403 18 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, sundries, | 16 90 | |
| L. Bolles & Son, sashes, | 30 00 | |
| W. G. Baker, pulleys and cord, | 2 75 | |
| Bogman & Vinal, hardware, | 2 79 | |
| J. L. Merriam, paint and labor, | 16 93 | |
| J. L. Ross, desks, &c. | 335 65 | |
| H. B. & W. O Chamberlain, philosophi- cal apparatus, | 418 99 | |
| J. L. Hammett, globe, charts, &c. | 39 75 | |
| A. E. White, chemicals, &c., | 4 80 | |
| Nichols & Hall, books, | 6 19 | |
| A. E. White, “ | 2 42 | |
| L. G. Babcock, “ | 4 58 | |
| Thompson, Bigelow & Brown, “ | 31 50 | |
| A. E. White, graduating expenses, | 4 50 | |
| Mrs. P. R. Russell, trees, | 25 50 | |
| J. Stacy Read, “ | 6 00 | |
| G. W. Nichols, repairing clocks, | 2 50 | |
| School Committee, sundries, | 11 34 | |
| Eli Simonds, labor, | 12 37 | |
| M. Doyle, “ | 3 00 | |
| B. Caffrey, “ | 5 00 | |
| F. Gaffney, “ | 5 00 | |
| C. T. Worthley, expressing, | 9 25 | |
| | <hr/> | 1400 89 |

HOWARD SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| M. E. Russell, instruction, | \$368 12 | |
| M. A. Jackson, “ | 95 00 | |
| J. W. Pierce, coal, | 18 00 | |
| William Viles, wood, | 18 12 | |
| Geo. F. Chapman, “ | 7 00 | |
| Joseph Richardson, “ | 6 00 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | | \$,512 24 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | 512 24 | |
| William Grover, sawing wood, | 16 00 | |
| William Grover, care of room, | 38 25 | |
| Sarah Fiske, cleaning room, | 9 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$575 49 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| N. Fessenden, trees, | \$10 50 | |
| J. Stacy Read “ | 6 00 | |
| William Grover, labor and loam, | 16 70 | |
| A. L. Ball, building fence, | 168 25 | |
| J. S. Merriam, paint and labor, | 27 57 | |
| F. J. Winship, whitewashing, &c., | 5 50 | |
| O. B. Darling, curtain fixtures, &c., | 1 85 | |
| Geo. W. Nichols, clock, | 8 50 | |
| L. G. Babcock, books, | 4 30 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, cleaning stove, and sundries, | 7 75 | |
| C. A. Butters, pails, | 0 50 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | 257 42 | |
| By cash from Geo. Munroe, half cost of division fence, | 26 40 | |
| | <hr/> | 231 02 |

WARREN SCHOOL.

From School Grant.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Ellen M. Underwood, instruction, | 475 00 | |
| William Viles, wood, | 8 56 | |
| A. G. Spaulding, “ | 7 00 | |
| Jos. Richardson, “ | 6 00 | |
| Patrick Caffrey, sawing wood, | 2 25 | |
| Edward Denine, “ “ | 2 22 | |
| Willie Hargrove, care of rooms, | 20 00 | |
| E. M. Underwood, cleaning room, | 3 42 | |
| | <hr/> | 524 45 |

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| A. L. Ball, labor and material, and cleaning well, | 25 73 | |
| J. S. Merriam, setting glass, | 2 25 | |
| L. G. Babcock, books, | 4 18 | |
| Whitcher & Saville, hatchet, | 0 90 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, broom, | 0 35 | |
| | <hr/> | 33 41 |

COMMON TO ALL THE SCHOOLS.

From School Grant.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Horace Bird, musical instruction, | 600 00 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

From Grant for Repairs, &c.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| S. Ward & Co., paper, | 18 78 | |
| Burton, Fellows & Co., dusters, | 8 63 | |
| Thompson, Bigelow & Brown, books, | 4 21 | |
| Nichols & Hall, pencils and paper, | 8 66 | |
| Flint Bros., rollers, | 1 80 | |
| J. S. F. Huddleston, thermometers, | 5 00 | |
| School Committee, curtain tassels, | 1 90 | |
| | <hr/> | 48 98 |

SUMMARY.

| NAME OF SCHOOLS. | FROM SCHOOL GRANT. Instruction, Fuel, and care of rooms. | FROM GRANT FOR REPAIRS, &c. Repairs and Inci- dentals. | TOTALS. |
|----------------------|--|---|-------------|
| Adams, | \$2,245 00 | \$ 237 89 | \$2,482 89 |
| Bowditch, | 509 65 | 47 95 | 557 60 |
| Franklin, | 491 00 | 13 91 | 504 91 |
| Hancock, | 2,067 65 | 1,959 43 | 4,027 08 |
| High, | 2,742 68 | 1,400 89 | 4,143 57 |
| Howard, | 575 49 | 231 02 | 806 51 |
| Warren, | 524 45 | 33 41 | 557 86 |
| Musical Instruction, | 600 00 | | 600 00 |
| Not classified, | | 48 98 | 48 98 |
| Total, | \$9,755 92 | \$3,973 48 | \$13,729 40 |

NOTE.—By the Auditor's Report of 1872, we find that there was an unexpended balance for the School Grant of 1872 of \$661.41, and an excess of expenditure on the Grant for Repairs of \$248.01, leaving a balance of \$413.40 properly belonging to the schools for 1873, but as the balance was not allowed by the Selectmen in the settlement with the School Committee, we have presented our account as shown in that settlement, but deem it proper to make this explanation, in justice to the School Committee.

MAPLE STREET.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$1,500 00 |
| Amount expended to Feb. 1, 1874, | \$1,164 12 |
| Balance unexpended, | 335 88 |
| | <hr/> \$1,500 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Joshua Hobart, labor, | \$81 00 |
| “ “ use of horse and cart, | 43 00 |
| “ “ tools, powder and fuse, | 21 85 |
| Town of Lexington, stone for culvert, | 81 00 |
| Highway Surveyors, use of horses 78 dys., | 117 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$343 85 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$343 85 |
| Overseers of Poor, use of horses 13 days, | 19 50 |
| Wm. Gleason, self, man and sharp drills, | 59 20 |
| William Brigham, two stone drags, | 16 00 |
| Nathaniel Pierce, gravel, | 18 00 |
| Josiah Smith, smithing, | 22 43 |
| Darius Dow, teaming stone, | 11 00 |
| A. Childs, sundries, | 3 35 |
| Whitcher & Saville, sundries, | 2 95 |
| Eli Simonds, labor, | 16 25 |
| John P. Reed, " | 5 00 |
| Harrison Pierce, " | 61 88 |
| Levi J. Smith, " | 4 00 |
| James Emery, " | 2 62 |
| Frank Barney, " | 3 00 |
| Charles Frank, " | 12 63 |
| William Murphy, " | 12 00 |
| Cornelius Conners, " | 34 25 |
| David Dugan, " | 23 03 |
| Daniel Conroy, " | 10 00 |
| Stephen Commo, " | 43 00 |
| George Commo, " | 43 00 |
| John McKensie, " | 48 00 |
| Daniel Mullen, " | 42 75 |
| Michael Carroll, " | 37 50 |
| John Vaughan, " | 39 25 |
| Frank Gaffeney, " | 45 38 |
| Daniel Harrington, " | 47 55 |
| Patrick Joy, " | 38 38 |
| Fred Chalenor, " | 35 94 |
| Nicholas Shea, " | 51 75 |
| George E. Babcock, " | 5 00 |
| Frank R. Dodge, " | 3 06 |
| Patrick Gilmore, " | 2 62 |

\$1,164 12

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$3,000 00 | |
| Deficiency grant 1873, | 3,000 00 | |
| From sale of lamps from Town Hall, | 12 87 | |
| “ Drainage Committee, for stone, | 130 00 | |
| “ sale of stone, Maple street, | 81 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$6,223 87 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Amount of expenditures, | \$4,293 17 | |
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 1,930 70 | |
| | <hr/> | 6,223 87 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Whitcher & Saville, oil and sundries for | |
| Hall, &c., | 47 83 |
| Edward T. Bacon, lamps for Hall, | 49 18 |
| J. W. Pierce, coal “ “ | 19 00 |
| W. Wyman, “ “ “ | 144 00 |
| A. G. Spaulding, wood, “ “ | 17 00 |
| Aiken & Woodward, charcoal for Hall, | 13 50 |
| A. Harrington, sawing wood, | 5 00 |
| O. W. Kendall, Janitor, | 249 80 |
| Miss M. S. Keyes, Librarian, | 104 73 |
| Miss M. E. Hudson, “ | 30 00 |
| C. Hudson, serv. on Vine Brook Com., | 50 00 |
| H. Holmes, “ “ “ “ “ | 18 00 |
| O. P. Mills, Committee services, | 20 00 |
| D. A. Tuttle, “ “ | 22 00 |
| James Gould, “ “ | 10 00 |
| Eli Simonds Truant officer, | 6 00 |
| N. Garmon, digging well Pleasant St., | 250 00 |
| J. Hobart, pump & grading, “ “ | 113 62 |
| S. Fletcher, covering stone for culverts, | 280 00 |

Amount carried forward, \$1,449 66

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,449 66 |
| Day & Collins, drain pipe, | 59 84 |
| Gershom Swan, " " | 12 32 |
| B. L. & N. R. R. Co., freight, | 68 31 |
| F. M. Harrington, horse hire, | 53 00 |
| Donald Sim, destroying small pox beds, | 37 00 |
| Gershom Swan, articles destroyed S. P., | 50 00 |
| Eli Simonds, messenger in cases " " | 35 00 |
| H. A. Morse, use of house, " " | 125 00 |
| W. J. Currier, attendance cases " " | 40 00 |
| C. Hudson, services as Auditor, 1873, | 29 25 |
| L. A. Saville, " " " " | 10 00 |
| Geo. L. Pierce, salute, Apr. 19, 1873, | 15 00 |
| Amos W. Robinson, raising flag, | 6 00 |
| L. A. Saville, repairs on flag, | 2 00 |
| A. L. Ball, " " hay scales, | 1 41 |
| Eli Simonds, lighting lamps, | 13 80 |
| L. J. Smith, " " | 1 40 |
| D. McNamara, blasting, | 21 00 |
| J. Hobart, work on Common, | 14 00 |
| A. F. Fessenden, labor, | 3 00 |
| N. Harrington, " " | 2 00 |
| H. D. Houser, fence at Adams E. H., | 8 04 |
| D. A. Tuttle, labor on gun house, | 4 69 |
| C. S. Kidder, survey on Waltham St., | 10 00 |
| Baldwin Locke, distributing envelopes, | 2 00 |
| A. G. Spaulding, hauling stone, | 2 00 |
| Sarah Taunt, suit vs. town, | 27 67 |
| Alonzo Goddard, Sealer, | 15 00 |
| C. Hudson, stationery, chain halters, &c., | 9 44 |
| E. K. Darling, stationery, | 3 25 |
| M. R. Warren, blank book, | 3 50 |
| T. E. Hurd, court fees, | 9 40 |
| Jessop, Easton & Co., lumber, | 138 58 |
| Levi Prosser, on acct. gravel pit, | 400 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$2,682 56 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$2,682 56 |
| O. W. Kendall, distributing Reports, | 18 50 |
| Westboro State Ref. School, board, Cody, | 11 50 |
| Worcester Lunatic Hospital, board, Mrs. | |
| Gammell, Harrington and Abbott, | 684 06 |
| Caleb Rand, printing, | 30 50 |
| J. L. Parker, " | 114 30 |
| T. R. Marvin & Son, " | 290 25 |
| Eli Simonds, special police, | 70 50 |
| A. L. Ball, two years, special police, | 100 00 |
| Amos W. Locke, " " | 25 00 |
| Amos W. Robinson, " " | 25 00 |
| Willard Walcott, " " | 27 00 |
| Joshua Hobart, " " | 12 00 |
| H. A. Wellington, " " | 10 00 |
| W. F. Ham, " " | 9 00 |
| James A. Mitchell, " " | 9 00 |
| Chas. Hudson, Selectman, Feb. 1873, | 15 00 |
| R. W. Reed, " " " | 12 00 |
| L. S. Peirce, " " " | 12 00 |
| Chs. Hudson, on acct. serv. as Selectman, | 50 00 |
| L. S. Pierce, " " " | 45 00 |
| B. C. Whitcher, " " " | 40 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$4,293 17 |

CULVERTS.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Appropriated and Assessed in 1873, | \$500 00 |
| Excess of Expenditures, | 247 99 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$747 99 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Eli Simonds, culvert on Bedford Street, | |
| and labor, | \$ 89 49 |
| Denis McNamara, culvert on Cross St., | 105 00 |
| | <hr/> |

Amount carried forward, \$194 49

| | | |
|--|--------|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | | \$194 49 |
| William Welch, culvert on Main and Waltham streets, | 425 00 | |
| Darius Dow, teaming stone, | 87 00 | |
| Sylvester Puffer, splitting stone, | 18 25 | |
| E. A. Mullikin, labor, &c., | 13 25 | |
| Charles Hudson, services, | 10 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$747 99 |

NEW STREETS.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Appropriated and Assessed in 1873, | \$1,085 00 | |
| Cash from Raymond & Reed, | 200 00 | |
| “ “ S. B. Rindge, | 75 00 | |
| Excess of Expenditures, | 46 64 | |
| | <hr/> | \$1,406 64 |

EXPENDITURES.

P A R K E R S T R E E T .

From Monument St. to Clarke St.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Paid W. L. Sanderson, as per contract, | \$ 200 00 |
|--|-----------|

RAYMOND STREET.

From Muzzey St. to Clarke St.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Paid W. L. Sanderson, as per contract, | 203 75 |
|--|--------|

FOREST STREET.

From Muzzey St. to Clarke St.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Paid J. F. Simonds, as per contract, | 197 60 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$601 35 |

Amount brought forward \$601 35

CLARKE STREET.

From Main St. to Forest St.

| | | |
|--|----------|------------|
| Paid W. L. Sanderson, as per contract, | \$662 50 | |
| " William Gleason, blasting, | 116 24 | |
| " Eli Simonds, moving fence, &c., | 9 62 | |
| " E. A. Mulliken, labor, | 11 68 | |
| " Patrick Joy, " | 5 25 | |
| | <hr/> | \$805 29 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$1,406 64 |

IMPROVEMENT ON LINCOLN STREET.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Amount of contract, | \$2,200 00 | |
| Expended in 1872, | 297 44 | |
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | <hr/> | \$1,902 56 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Paid Hobart & Bryant, during 1873, | \$692 95 | |
| " Joshua Hobart, " " | 838 79 | |
| " Nathan L. Bryant, " " | 370 82 | |
| | <hr/> | \$1,902 56 |

RINGING CHURCH BELLS.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Amount unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$35 00 | |
| Appropriated and Assessed in 1873, | 70 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$105 00 |
| Expended to Feb. 1, 1874, | \$90 00 | |
| Balance unexpended, | 15 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 105 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Paid John Chisholm, from May 1, 1872, to May 1, 1873, | \$35 00 |
| Paid Wm. F. Ham from April 1, 1872, to Oct. 18, 1873, | 55 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$90 00 |

SETTEES FOR HANCOCK ENGINE HOUSE.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Appropriated and Assessed in 1873, | \$55 00 |
| Excess of Expenditure, | 1 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$56 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Paid W. O. Haskell & Sons, | \$56 00 |
|----------------------------|---------|

MEMORIAL HALL.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Appropriated and Assessed in 1873, | \$1,000 00 |
|------------------------------------|------------|

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Paid Chas. Hudson, Chairman of the Trustees of the Statue fund, | 1,000 00 |
|---|----------|

DECORATION DAY.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Appropriated and Assessed in 1873, | \$100 00 |
|------------------------------------|----------|

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Paid O. B. Darling, Q. M. Post 119, G. A. R. | 100 00 |
|--|--------|

STREET LAMPS.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$1,000 00 |
| Amount expended, | \$792 18 |
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 207 82 |
| | <hr/> \$1,000 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Robert J. Elliott, | 70-lamps, | \$642 33 |
| W. H. & J. S. Munroe, | 4 " | 37 06 |
| W. A. Power, | 2 " | 9 01 |
| Warren B. Hadley, | 4 " | 20 00 |
| R. W. Holbrook, | 1 " | 9 70 |
| A. Childs, | 1 " | 9 35 |
| David Hall, | 1 " | 9 15 |
| N. W. Jenny, | 1 " | 10 65 |
| N. Garmon, | 1 " | 8 75 |
| Edwin S. Spaulding, | 1 " | 8 50 |
| James H. Wright, | 1 " | 9 23 |
| George Stearns, | 1 " | 9 70 |
| Loring S. Pierce, | 1 " | 8 75 |
| | | <hr/> \$792 18 |

GAS MACHINE FOR TOWN HALL.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$600 00 |
| No expenditures. | |

FLINT STREET.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$420 00 |
| Expended, | \$200 00 |
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 220 00 |
| | <hr/> \$420 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Paid Nathaniel Flint, land damage, | \$200 00 |
|------------------------------------|----------|

ASSESSORS.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$300 00 | |
| Excess of Appropriation, | 48 90 | |
| | <hr/> | \$348 90 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| J. F. Simonds, services, | \$103 50 | |
| J. F. Simonds, copying valuation twice, | 30 00 | |
| Walter Wellington, services, | 90 00 | |
| Leonard A. Saville, services and stationery | 92 50 | |
| F. M. Harrington, horse hire, | 12 25 | |
| J. L. Parker, assessors blanks, | 15 00 | |
| L. A. Saville, blank books and expressing, | 5 65 | |
| | <hr/> | \$348 90 |

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$2 09 | |
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | 800 00 | |
| Excess of expenditure, | 137 09 | |
| | <hr/> | \$939 18 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Adams Engine Co., 1, pay of 36 men, | \$360 00 | |
| Oliver Brown, steward, rent &c., | 105 00 | |
| J. W. Peirce, fuel, | 6 00 | |
| John Linscott, oil cloth suits, | 17 50 | |
| Hadley & Wright, stoves and lanterns, | 31 00 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | | \$,519 50 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$519 50 | |
| J. O. Hollis & Co., keys, | 4 50 | |
| Hancock Engine Co., 2, pay of 30 men, | 288 00 | |
| J. W. Peirce, coal, | 5 50 | |
| Whitcher & Saville, sundries, | 11 32 | |
| C. A. Butters, sundries, | 6 59 | |
| F. H. Kneeland, steward, | 30 00 | |
| Alonzo Goddard, sundries, | 15 60 | |
| L. Lawrence, sundries, | 11 50 | |
| W. Hall & Co., keys, | 3 00 | |
| L. G. Babcock, sundries, | 4 17 | |
| J. S. Merriam, painting sign, | 8 00 | |
| Hunneman & Co., repairs, | 11 50 | |
| Wm. Ham, services as Engineer, | 10 00 | |
| S. W. Hendley, " " " | 10 00 | |
| | | <u>\$939 18</u> |

REPAIRS OF HANCOCK ENGINE HOUSE.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$108 02 | |
| Excess of expenditure, | 28 53 | |
| | | <u>\$136 55</u> |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| D. A. Tuttle, labor and material, | 68 15 | |
| G. Swan, mason work, | 28 40 | |
| J. S. Merriam, painting, | 40 00 | |
| | | <u>\$136 55</u> |

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Appropriation for 1872, unexpended, | \$280 00 | |
| Appropriation for 1873, | 280 00 | |
| | | <u>\$560 00</u> |
| Amount expended, 1873, | \$329 00 | |
| Balance unexpended, 1st Feb. 1874, | 231 00 | |
| | | <u>\$560 00</u> |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|----------|
| A. E. Scott, services to March 1, 1873, | \$ 90 00 |
| “ “ “ as treasurer and writing report, | 25 00 |
| Charles Tidd, services to March 1, 1873, | 90 00 |
| E. G. Porter, “ “ “ | 90 00 |
| Carriage hire, 1872-3, | 34 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$329 00 |

TREASURER AND COLLECTOR.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$300 00 | |
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | 300 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$600 00 |
| Amount expended, | \$450 00 | |
| Balance unexpended Feb 1, 1874, | 150 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$600 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|----------|
| L. G. Babcock, services to March 3, '73, | \$300 00 |
| I. N. Damon, completing collection, 1872, | 50 00 |
| I. N. Damon, on account, 1873, | 100 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$450 00 |

TOWN CLERK.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$80 00 | |
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873. | 80 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$160 00 |
| Amount expenditures, 1873, | \$128 65 | |
| Amount unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 31 35 | |
| | <hr/> | \$160 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|--|----------|
| L. G. Babcock, services to March 1, '73, | \$78 65 |
| “ “ on account, 1873, | 50 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$128 65 |

AUDITORS.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$45 00 |
| No Expenditure. | |

SEXTON.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$24 50 | |
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | 75 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$99 50 |
| No Expenditure. | | |

DEFICIENCIES IN LAST YEAR'S APPROPRIATION.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Appropriated and assessed in 1873, | \$3,000 00 |
|------------------------------------|------------|

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Transferred to Contingent Grant, | 3,000 00 |
|----------------------------------|----------|

IMPROVEMENT AT POOR HOUSE.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | | \$500 00 |
| Amount of Expenditures, 1873, | \$321 46 | |
| Balance unexpended 1st Feb. 1874, | 178 54 | |
| | <hr/> | 500 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Jessop, Easton & Co., lumber, | \$152 00 |
| E. R. Smith, labor and sundries, | 94 34 |
| Gershom Swan, labor and materials, | 27 47 |
| A. Goddard, sundries, | 9 89 |
| A. Childs, nails, | 7 74 |
| W. Ham, smithing, | 1 40 |
| | <hr/> |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$292 84 |
|--------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$292 84 |
| F. R. Dodge, labor, | 5 00 |
| Eli Simonds, services, | 5 00 |
| John P. Reed, " and shingles, | 14 62 |
| Joshua Hobart, " | 4 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$321 46 |

CONSTABLES.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | | \$100 00 |
| Amount of Expenditures, 1873, | \$62 50 | |
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 37 50 | |
| | <hr/> | 100 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| O. W. Kendall, services, | 14 00 |
| Eli Simonds, " | 33 50 |
| Joshua Hobart, " | 15 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$62 50 |

STATE AID.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | \$400 00 | |
| Excess of Expenditure, | 50 63 | |
| | <hr/> | 450 63 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Wm. Nicholson, | 12 months, | \$48 00 |
| James A. Mitchell, | 12 " | 54 00 |
| Thomas Burke, | 13 " | 58 50 |
| Mrs. Mary Manley, | 12 " | 96 00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | | \$256 50 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | | \$256 50 | |
| Mrs. Emily Earle, | 12 " | 48 00 | |
| Mrs. Lydia Kenniston, | 12 " | 48 00 | |
| Grovenor A. Page, | 10 " | 60 00 | |
| Mrs. Mary L. Sawtelle, | 4 " | 16 00 | |
| Mrs. Hannah O'Neil, | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 22 13 | |
| | | <hr/> | \$450 63 |

INTEREST.

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$ 777 94 | |
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | 4,300 00 | |
| Interest on overdue taxes to Jan. 1, '74, | 88 01 | |
| Interest from County Treas'r, allowed on tax, | 12 81 | |
| | <hr/> | \$5,178 81 |
| Amount Expenditures, 1873, | \$4,617 14 | |
| Balance unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 561 67 | |
| | <hr/> | 5,178 81 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Geo. Holden, | Interest, | \$1,084 22 |
| State Treasurer, | " | 1,750 00 |
| Middlesex Mutual Fire Ins. Co. | " | 200 18 |
| Middlesex Ins. for Savings, | " | 315 00 |
| Nat'l Bank of Commonwealth, | " | 193 66 |
| Trustees Lex. Min'l Fund, | " | 210 00 |
| Treas. of Cary Library, | " | 420 00 |
| Emily Muzzey, | " | 71 50 |
| Concord National Bank, | " | 26 40 |
| L. K. Damon, | " | 61 25 |
| O. & W. B. Smith, | " | 120 00 |
| D. L. Giles, | " | 59 88 |
| Nathan Chandler, | " | 47 48 |
| W. Sherburne, | " | 25 29 |
| Elizabeth Simonds, | " | 32 28 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$4,617 14 |

REDUCTION OF TOWN DEBT.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Appropriation remain'g unexpended Feb. 1, '73, | \$2,000 00 |
|--|------------|

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Paid Geo. Holden, Feb. 25, 1873, | 2,000 00 |
|----------------------------------|----------|

CLASSIFYING DOCUMENTS.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Appropriation of April 10, 1871— | |
| Unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$25 00 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| L. G. Babcock, boxes and labor, | 25 00 |
|---------------------------------|-------|

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Amount unexpended Feb. 1, 1873, | \$246 35 | |
| Appropriated and assessed for 1873, | 500 00 | |
| | <u> </u> | \$746 35 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Amount expended in 1873, | \$654 23 | |
| Amount unexpended Feb. 1, 1874, | 92 12 | |
| | <u> </u> | 746 35 |

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Allowed by Assessors on tax list, 1872, | \$105 12 |
| “ “ “ “ “ 1873, | 549 11 |
| | <u> </u> |
| | \$654 23 |

DOG TAX.

(Appropriated to Cary Library.)

| | |
|---|----------|
| Amount refunded by County Commissioners on dog tax, 1872, | \$244 80 |
|---|----------|

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Paid A. E. Scott, Treas. Cary Library, | \$244 80 |
|--|----------|

CARY LIBRARY.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Amount appropriated and assessed, | \$40 00 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|

EXPENDITURES:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Paid A. E. Scott, Treas. Cary Library, | 40 00 |
|--|-------|

In presenting the foregoing Report, we have endeavored to show in a consolidated and classified form the amounts that have been received and expended in each Department.

We hereby certify that we have examined the original bills and found them to be correctly cast and properly vouched.

Respectfully submitted.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| LEONARD A. SAVILLE, | } <i>Auditors.</i> |
| OLIVER P. MILLS, | |
| FRANK E. WETHERELL, | |

LEXINGTON, Feb. 10, 1874.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN LEXINGTON,

FROM JAN. 1, 1873, TO JAN. 1, 1874.

| DATE. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| January 23..... | James A. Mitchell | Lexington. |
| | Maria Mooney | Lexington. |
| March 22..... | John R. Kimball..... | Floyd, Iowa. |
| | Eliza J. Davis..... | Lexington. |
| April 27..... | William Dacey..... | Lexington. |
| | Hannah Finn..... | Boston. |
| May 21..... | Chester W. Smith..... | Winchester. |
| | Diana H. Bliss..... | Lexington. |
| May 24..... | John Henderson..... | Lexington. |
| | Ellen Morrison..... | Arlington. |
| June 1..... | Henry O. Stearns..... | Lexington. |
| | Mary Leeming..... | Lexington. |
| June 7..... | William Corcoran..... | Lexington. |
| | Catherine A. Gallagher..... | Lexington. |
| September 1..... | George Prising..... | Charlestown. |
| | Ella G. Fox..... | Charlestown. |
| September 18..... | Donald McIntyre..... | Lexington. |
| | Augusta D. Simonds..... | Lexington. |
| September 24..... | Alvah C. Stone..... | Boston. |
| | Alice A. Tufts..... | Lexington. |
| September 29..... | Charles William Victor Frank..... | Lexington. |
| | Mary Josephine Sullivan..... | Lowell. |
| October 1..... | Charles J. Mace..... | Wayland. |
| | Augusta L. Sherman..... | Framingham. |
| October 4..... | Robert N. Pierce..... | Melrose. |
| | Lucy H. Lovering..... | Melrose. |
| October 26..... | Samuel H. Jones..... | Lexington. |
| | Gordyla M. Fisher..... | Dedham. |
| November 7..... | Albert S. Benson..... | Cambridge. |
| | Lizzie F. Underwood..... | Lexington. |
| November 19..... | Duncan McLaughlin..... | Lexington. |
| | Mary Jane Cole..... | Lexington. |
| November 20..... | James Edwards..... | Lexington. |
| | Bessie Miller..... | Lexington. |
| November 27..... | Edwin N. Simonds..... | Burlington. |
| | Anna M. Simonds..... | Lexington. |
| December 23..... | Michael B. Corrigan..... | Watertown. |
| | Mary Crowley..... | Lexington. |
| December 23..... | John Albree..... | Boston. |
| | Helen M. Beverstock..... | Lexington. |

Whole number of Marriages.20.

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN LEXINGTON,

FROM JAN. 1, 1873, TO JAN. 1, 1874.

Whole number of Births. 36; Males, 20; Females, 16

DEATHS RECORDED IN LEXINGTON.

FROM JAN. 1, 1873, TO JAN. 1, 1874.

| DATE. | NAME. | AGE. | | | PLACE OF DEATH. | PLACE OF BIRTH. |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Yrs. | Mo. | Days. | | |
| Jan. | 3 Henry Collins, | 44 | 5 | | Lexington. | Virginia. |
| " | 6 James Kennis, | 43 | | | " | Nova Scotia. |
| " | 11 Cyrus Reed, | 74 | 2 | 2 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 14 Charles Canfield, | 4 | | | " | " |
| " | 23 William Henry Whiting, | 59 | 5 | 11 | " | Charlestown. |
| " | 30 Margaret Kane, | 45 | | | " | Ireland. |
| Feb. | 13 Edward Sheridan, | 70 | | | " | " |
| " | 15 Sarah Reed, | 70 | 7 | 26 | " | Boxboro. |
| " | 25 Sullivan Bridgett, | 66 | 11 | | " | Lexington. |
| March | 21 Margaret Wyma, | 72 | 9 | | " | Charlestown. |
| " | 21 Mattie R. Culler, | 72 | | 28 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 23 Hannah O'Neill, | 48 | | | " | Ireland. |
| April | 2 James J. Elliott, | 1 | 5 | 26 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 6 Botey Holbrook, | 25 | | | " | Sherborn. |
| " | 7 Jonas Gammell, | 52 | 5 | 27 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 10 Mary E. Simonds, | 28 | 6 | | " | " |
| May | 2 Robert J. Elliott, | 82 | 6 | 25 | " | " |
| " | 3 John Hastings, | 82 | 10 | | " | " |
| " | 21 Daniel Mooney, | 81 | | 1 | " | " |
| June | 16 Harriet Brewer, | 19 | | | " | Coleraine. |
| " | 19 Thomas O'Brien, | 64 | 10 | | " | Lexington. |
| " | 25 Joseph Underwood, | 64 | | | " | " |
| " | 27 Hannah Peako, | 82 | | | " | " |
| July | 3 Elizabeth Leary, | 42 | | | " | Ireland. |
| " | 15 Edward Connelly, | 28 | | | " | " |
| " | 16 Timothy McDonald, | | 11 | | " | Lexington. |
| " | 20 Bridget Nevil, | | 9 | 20 | " | " |
| " | 22 Henry Ernest Cutter, | 1 | 8 | 3 | " | " |
| Aug. | 7 Frank Lincoln Davis, | 7 | 2 | | " | Cambridge. |
| " | 8 Michael Crowley, | 65 | | | " | Ireland. |
| " | 9 Alpheus S. Kemard, | 82 | | | " | Elliot, Maine. |
| " | 11 Frank R. Wilkins, | | | 12 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 14 George W. Fox, | | 8 | 3 | " | Charlestown. |
| " | 14 Michael Doyle, | 51 | 8 | | " | Ireland. |
| " | 17 William McLane, | 54 | | | " | " |
| " | 17 Margie Holmes Vinal, | 4 | 2 | 13 | " | Boston. |
| " | 21 Alice Belle Jones, | 5 | 10 | | " | Lexington. |
| " | 22 Charles Harrington, | 74 | 4 | 11 | " | " |
| " | 24 Anna Merriam, | 81 | 5 | | " | Concord. |
| " | 25 Joel Stearns, | 83 | 2 | 10 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 28 Katie Haley, | 8 | 5 | | " | " |
| " | 30 Eleanor Gordon Hooper, | 5 | 10 | 8 | " | Jamaica Plain. |
| " | 3 Sidney Myron Lawrence, | 1 | 1 | 29 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 30 Thomas F. McCaffrey, | 2 | 9 | | " | " |
| Sept. | 3 Adella McCaffrey, | | 11 | | " | " |
| " | 20 Ellen A. Pratt, | 35 | | | " | Nova Scotia. |
| " | 23 Matthew Gaghegan, | 1 | 3 | 26 | " | Lexington. |
| " | 23 Sarah Whalan, | 40 | | | " | Ireland. |
| " | 24 Alice Gardner Davis, | | 5 | | " | Boston. |
| " | 27 Catherine McGee, | 79 | 9 | 2 | " | Ireland. |
| " | 27 Hannah M. Robbins, | 61 | | | " | Lexington. |
| " | 28 Nellie L. Pierce, | 1 | 2 | 7 | " | " |
| Oct. | 2 Mary O'Brien, | 53 | | | " | Ireland. |
| " | 11 Margaret C. Eaton, | 80 | 9 | | " | Lexington. |
| " | 31 Charles H. Kaufmann, | 8 | 11 | | " | " |
| Nov. | 19 Joel Viles, | 80 | 1 | | On Lex. train. | " |
| " | 19 Ann Carroll, | 23 | | | Lexington. | Ireland. |
| " | 22 Sarah P. Smith, | 64 | 8 | | Worcester. | Wolboro, N.H. |
| " | 26 Harmony H. Richards, | 65 | 3 | | Lexington. | Barnardstown. |
| Dec. | 12 Isaac M. Parker, | 44 | 1 | | " | Lexington. |
| " | 15 Mary Cosgrove, | 75 | | | " | Ireland. |
| " | 22 Sarah Patterson, | 55 | 3 | | " | " |
| " | 31 Sarah Jones, | 10 | 23 | | Boston. | Meredith, N.H. |

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Whole number of Deaths, | 63 |
| Males, | 33 |
| Females, | 30 |

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---|
| Dysentery, | 7 | Age, | 7 |
| Cholera Infantum, | 6 | Consumption, | 5 |
| Paralysis, | 5 | Small Pox, | 3 |
| Heart Disease, | 3 | Dropsy, | 2 |
| Diarrhoea, | 1 | Bilious Colic, | 1 |
| Spinal Disease, | 1 | Sun Stroke, | 1 |
| Teething, | 1 | Rheumatism, | 1 |
| Neuralgia, | 1 | Convulsions, | 1 |
| Fits, | 1 | Bronchitis, | 1 |
| Gastritis, | 1 | Hydrocephalus, | 1 |
| Disease of Brain, | 1 | Accident, | 1 |
| Insanity, | 1 | Tumor, | 1 |
| Scrofula, | 1 | Apoplexy, | 1 |
| Unknown, | 7 | | |

Total, 63.

Compiled from Town Records.

LEONARD G. BABCOCK, *Town Clerk.*

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1873--4

TOWN CLERK.

LEONARD G. BABCOCK.

SELECTMEN.

CHARLES HUDSON,
LORING S. PIERCE,
B. C. WHITCHER.

ASSESSORS.

JOSEPH F. SIMONDS,
WALTER WELLINGTON,
LEONARD A. SAVILLE.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

C. A. WELLINGTON, for 3 years,
CHARLES TIDD, " 2 "
A. E. SCOTT, " 1 "

TREASURER AND COLLECTOR.

ISAAC N. DAMON,

HIGHWAY SURVEYORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

ELI SIMONDS,
JOHN P. REED,
JOSHUA HOBART.

CONSTABLES.

ELI SIMONDS,
JOSHUA HOBART.

AUDITORS.

LEONARD A. SAVILLE,
OLIVER P. MILLS,
F. E. WETHERELL.

FIELD DRIVERS.

GEORGE H. JACKSON,
AMOS ANGIER,
JAMES CROWLEY.

FENCE VIEWERS.

DR. H. HOLMES,
W. D. PHELPS,
HAMMON REED.

SURVEYOR OF LUMBER.

O. W. KENDALL.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

LEONARD A. SAVILLE;
F. V. BUTTERS,
A. CHILDS,
R. W. HOLBROOK.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF TOWN SCALES, AND WEIGHRES OF
HAY AND COAL.

B. C. WHITCHER,
R. W. HOLBROOK.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

ALONZO GODDARD.

AUCTIONEER.

P. P. PIERCE.

REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
TOWN OF LEXINGTON,
FOR THE YEAR 1873-74.

WOBURN:
JOHN L. PARKER, PRINTER.
1874.

REPORT.

THE School Committee of Lexington herewith present their annual report.

Our report will be brief, and we ask for it candid consideration.

In rendering an account of our management we desire to express our appreciation of the very liberal appropriation placed at our disposal, and our consciousness of the consequent greater responsibility devolving on us, of so administering our trust as to increase the efficiency of our schools and merit this public confidence.

We have proceeded carefully and endeavored to act with good judgment, and if we have erred, we cannot be justly accused of not devoting sufficient time and attention even to the minutest details of school and prudential service.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The town appropriated, at its annual meeting in March, 1873:—

| | |
|--|------------|
| For support of schools | \$9,500 00 |
| For school buildings, apparatus, and incidentals . | 3,865 00 |

In addition to these sums we have received our share of the State School Fund for the years 1872 and 1873, amounting to \$336.48, three-fourths of which has been added to the school grant, and one-fourth to the grant for repairs and

incidentals, in accordance with the statute, making the total amount at our disposal, \$13,701.48.

We have expended these sums substantially in accordance with the recommendations in our last report and the vote of the town, and have scarcely exceeded the appropriations except, as hereafter explained, where we felt an emergency justified us in so doing, and which we are confident you will approve.

EXPENDITURES.

The expenditures have been as follows:—

| | |
|--|------------|
| For instruction, fuel, and care of rooms . . . | \$9,755 92 |
| Excess of appropriation | 3 56 |
| For repairs, apparatus, and incidentals . . . | 3,973 48 |
| Excess of appropriation | 24 36 |

ADAMS SCHOOL.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Instruction | \$2,050 00 |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 195 00 |
| Repairs, etc. | 237 89 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$2,482 89 |

BOWDITCH SCHOOL.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Instruction | \$461 87 |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 47 78 |
| Repairs, etc. | 47 95 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$557 60 |

FRANKLIN SCHOOL.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Instruction | \$450 00 |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 41 00 |
| Repairs, etc. | 13 91 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$504 91 |

HANCOCK SCHOOL.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Instruction | \$1,831 25 | |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 236 40 | |
| Repairs, etc. | 1,959 43 | |
| | <hr/> | \$4,027 08 |

HIGH SCHOOL.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Instruction | \$2,487 50 | |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 255 18 | |
| Repairs, etc. | 1,400 89 | |
| | <hr/> | \$4,143 57 |

HOWARD SCHOOL.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Instruction | \$463 12 | |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 112 37 | |
| Repairs, etc. | 231 02 | |
| | <hr/> | \$806 51 |

WARREN SCHOOL.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Instruction | \$475 00 | |
| Fuel and care of rooms | 49 45 | |
| Repairs, etc. | 33 41 | |
| | <hr/> | \$557 86 |
| Instruction in music | | 600 00 |
| Not classified | | 48 98 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Total expense for the year . . | | \$13,729 40 |

Certain sums which have been paid into the treasury for tuition of pupils from other towns will partially balance the small excess, and if we had been allowed to draw the unexpended balance of last year's appropriation and use it for this purpose, we should have paid all bills we have contracted and had a surplus in our hands. There seems to be no

good reason why, when money is appropriated for the schools, it should not be used for that purpose, even if it laps over from year to year. It is assessed and used somewhere. On examining you will find that in years past there has frequently been such surplus, and we expect our schools have been robbed to this extent, and that the amount has been used in covering deficiencies in other directions under the somewhat convenient head of contingent expenses.

We will refer to the repairs and improvements of school property briefly, for they are well known to our citizens, and we believe very generally appreciated.

In the Adams District, our means enabled us to do little else than build the fence suggested, and do some needed painting.

In the Howard District, in addition to building the fence, we have set out a few trees, done some grading, and have thoroughly cleaned, painted, and whitened the walls and ceiling of the school-room, which were in a deplorable condition.

The High School house has been shingled, and we have continued the improvement of the lot to the extent of many times the amount of the appropriation, being enabled to do so by the generosity of Mr. Prosser, who contributed nearly, if not quite, as much as the town appropriated, and by the material assistance of other citizens. The teachers, pupils and janitor of the school also took great interest in the work, furnishing trees and shrubs and many days' labor after our resources were exhausted, and caring for the trees during the season. The long-continued drought was especially unfavorable to the work; yet we think most of the trees have been saved, and that during the present year the grounds will present a very creditable appearance. The improvement has been well begun, and the scholars themselves are so much interested in it that we doubt not it will be continued without further assistance from the town.

In the lower school-room the old floor and school furniture were entirely removed and replaced with a floor of hard pine, and substantial single desks of oak, a case for the philosophical apparatus built, and apparatus to the extent of the appropriation placed therein.

The school-room has been made otherwise attractive by maps and charts, purchased from our share of the State School Fund, as allowed by statute, by a number of beautiful pictures placed on its walls by the pupils, by a fine piano, purchased entirely by the result of their efforts, and a good barometer, also donated.

The greatest changes have been made in the Hancock District. The plan suggested by us in the last report contemplated the enlargement of the Primary School room by an addition to the building of a single story. We suggested this on account of the expense of a second story, which was not needed. Acting on the advice of many citizens and of experienced mechanics, and finding that the expense of another story would be comparatively small, we took the responsibility of contracting for the full addition, and feel that the result has justified our action.

The addition was very successfully made by moving the rear wall of the building back fifteen feet, and finishing between this and the main building. The improvement gives us two large rooms connected with the Grammar School room, of little use at present, but which, perhaps, may be at some future time, and a room below for the Primary School, about thirty feet square, so that in place of the contracted apartment, so many years a fit subject for indictment, we have now a commodious and cheerful school-room.

The enlargement in this manner necessitated the entire removal of the rear chimney, and exhausted the means at our disposal. Since there was to be no meeting of the town in season to give us authority to act, and it being necessary to provide some method of heating the new room before No-

vember, we acted in a manner which we trust you will approve, and assume! the responsibility of contracting in anticipation of an appropriation.

We had to do one of two things, either build a new chimney and purchase two large stoves, or use the remaining chimney, which we could do by placing a furnace in the basement. The building had never been well heated by the five or six stoves previously in use, and we had little hesitation in deciding in favor of the furnace.

By a special arrangement with the Magee Furnace Company, of whom we purchased the furnace, the bill is not due until after the March meeting. The increase in the size of the school, after the meeting last year, rendered it necessary to procure considerable furniture, for which no estimate or appropriation was made. We increased the number of desks to forty-eight. But much to our amazement, after the new room was completed, the number of pupils increased to fifty-two. This additional furniture we were also obliged to buy on credit.

Besides the changes above referred to, the whole building has been shingled; a new out-house for girls built, and rear yards so fenced as to avoid the use of the same building or yard by both boys and girls, and to separate the primary boys from those of the other grades. We have also built new platforms and steps outside, and done considerable grading.

These are the important changes and improvements in school property during the year. In addition to these, hundreds of small repairs and lesser improvements have been made which we cannot mention in detail.

It, doubtless, seemed to many that the large amount of money set apart for the purpose would be sufficient to put our school property in good condition for many years, and we regret the necessity of calling your attention to many other needed improvements, and to repairs which are impera-

tive. We are aware that the cry of economy is far more popular at the present time than that for liberality, but it is our duty to the schools, to the town, and to the statute to make such recommendations as the welfare of our schools and the preservation of the school property demand.

We shall make our suggestions and recommendations as plain as language will admit, and this report being placed in the hands of the citizens so long before they are called upon to act, there seems to be little excuse for not acting promptly and understandingly. We ask your personal attention to the recommendations we make. Visit localities, examine for yourselves, and we will be content with your action.

It seems to us particularly absurd to vote money for certain objects, give instructions to expend it in accordance with certain recommendations, and then continually accuse the committee of extravagance. Let us say in this connection that we regret the tendency of many of our influential citizens to criticise the schools and the doings of the School Committee without taking pains to visit either schools or school property, and without caring to inquire into the correctness of the wretched statements which sometimes are thrust on the community. - Judging or acting on ex parte testimony is unjust, and cannot fail to produce impressions which result in injury to the schools.

We referred in our last report to the condition of the roofs of the school buildings. As stated, two have been shingled during the year. Although doubting the economy, we were compelled to carry others along to another year by patching. The Warren and Bowditch houses are leaking, the Warren badly, and patching will no longer suffice. Little else, perhaps, is absolutely necessary at the Bowditch, but much more is *needed*. The fence is dilapidated, grading is required, and the furniture almost abominable, uncomfortable, and so cut and carved that we almost wonder that parents allow their children to sit with such powerful and pernicious instructors

staring them in the face five hours per day. The furniture is in nearly the same condition in all the outer districts, and most of it should be removed and destroyed.

At the Warren School house much damage has already been done by leaking, and a considerable sum is required for repairs inside the building. The out-house here cannot fail to attract your notice if you approach it, and is too vile and decayed to be longer endured. Those at the Bowditch and Howard schools are in much the same condition, and ought to be removed.

The Warren School lot, never very attractive, is neglected and shabby. The north side appears to have been for many years a place of deposit for rubbish and stones from the adjoining lands, and a broken-down fence separates it from the adjacent pastures on the other side. We recommend that a bank wall be built on the north side, and a fence entirely around the lot.

We also recommend that a fence be built along the front of the Hancock School lot, with a gate convenient for the use of the Engine Company. We will remark, in passing, that we trust the town at no distant day will remove the Engine House to some other locality. This would improve the appearance of the grounds, and relieve the school from many objectionable features which we will not particularize.

Many other lesser repairs will be necessary and must be provided for.

We will again refer to the question of heating the Hancock and Adams School houses. The furnace which has been placed in the Hancock School house has worked better than we anticipated, and although only intended to heat the Primary School room, and the recitation-room above when needed, it has done far more than this. Up to December no fires were built in the other rooms, and after the first of March we are confident the furnace will be sufficient. The saving of fuel and labor during the fall and spring, to say

nothing of better ventilation and the comfort afforded, is a sufficient argument in its favor. It was the original plan to put in a brick furnace sufficiently large to heat the whole building, but the agent of the Furnace Company, sent from Boston to examine the premises, strongly advised us to put in two smaller and portable furnaces, it being unwise to rely on one to heat four rooms so situated, and the cost being but little more. As we have previously stated, we put in one of the two recommended, at an expense of about two hundred and seventy-five dollars, in advance of the appropriation, and we now ask you to appropriate a sufficient sum to cover this expense and to enable us to put in another of the same kind.

We find difficulty, though not to such an extent, in heating the Adams School house, and are convinced that we cannot properly or economically do so with stoves. We think one larger furnace here will suffice, and we strongly urge you to authorize us to put in such a furnace, and to appropriate therefor four hundred dollars. Unless this is done we shall need to expend a large sum in the purchase of new stoves for this and other houses.

The liberality of the town toward the High School during the past year has been such that we hesitate to ask for anything beyond what is needed for its necessary expenses. But until last year there was such an utter dearth of those aids to instruction with which every school-room should be furnished that the amount expended was but a drop in the bucket. We cannot afford to stop giving for the present. We think a small appropriation should be made for this purpose every year. The apparatus we now have has been thoroughly enjoyed. Almost every piece has been already used in experimental philosophy before the school, affording instruction such as can be given in no other manner; but many times the amount we have is needed, and additional apparatus should be considered another year.

What we especially desire now is a small library of books

of reference; such books are not in our Town Library, and if they were they would poorly answer the purpose. We need such books where the scholars can have access to them at all times. The pupils of the High School are awake and interested in their work, and eagerly consult such books as are within their reach, in their investigation of the various subjects to which their attention is called.

While such interest continues, we should not fail to furnish all the assistance of this kind we consistently can. We ask you to make a beginning in this direction, by an appropriation of one hundred dollars.

We have thus given you in detail, a statement of what is desired for the various schools, apart from the regular school expenses. We have not seen fit to discuss why so much more is required now than in previous years, — why the buildings need so extensive repairs, or why the furniture is in such condition. Remissness in this regard is so remote, that it is not profitable to discuss it. We should consider matters as they are, put our school property in good repair, remove everything that is unsightly or unseemly, and hold committees and teachers strictly responsible in the future.

The argument that it is of no use to have nice furniture and surroundings, because scholars will continue to mar and cut, seems to us to be weak. In the first place, scholars will not do so; and, in the second place, if they should, no matter how often it may be necessary, everything objectionable should be removed as soon as it appears.

We are aware that we have suggested some improvements not essential to the existence of our schools, but we have suggested nothing not essential to their welfare.

We *can* do without the fences for the Warren and Hancock school lots; but is it desirable? We might have done without the fences at the Howard, Adams, and High School lots; but is there a single citizen who would vote to remove those fences, and cover back the money into the treasury, were it possible?

Apart from the credit such improvements are to the town, and advantage to the immediate neighborhood, who can tell what the influence is on our scholars? Who can tell how much of the excellent deportment of the pupils of the High School is due to their surroundings? Our school-rooms and surroundings are potent educators for good or evil, and we cannot do too much towards having them well ventilated, and heated, attractive and convenient.

The appropriation for the regular school expenses was large, and we hesitate to ask for a larger sum for the present year. But we see no possible manner of continuing the schools as they now are without a slight increase.

We are strongly of the opinion that the salaries of our female teachers should be increased. We cannot expect to retain our best teachers, unless family circumstances influence them, on salaries less than five hundred dollars.

Every year more or less are drawn from us by larger salaries. But this is a mean argument. We should pay our female teachers more, because they earn it.

We desire every one to go through the calculation : —

| | |
|---|------------|
| We pay our male teachers | \$4,800 00 |
| The average salary of our female teachers is | |
| \$460 00. We employ nine | 4,140 00 |
| The cost of fuel cannot fall far short of | 500 00 |
| And of care of rooms | 350 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$9,790 00 |

The above amount is required to continue our schools as they are, on the salaries paid during the past year, and we ask you to add at least three hundred dollars more for the increase above referred to. The cost of fuel during the present year must be considerable larger than during the past year, from the fact that at the beginning of this year our cel-

lars were well stocked with wood, and at the close of the present season they will be almost entirely empty.

The care of rooms also is a matter of no little consequence. As may be seen by the auditor's report we have done cleaning at considerable expense in every school-house, but we are frequently censured, and we think justly too, for not doing more. Health and decency demand a thorough scrubbing as often as four times a year. The amount asked for above, however, does not contemplate any more extended care than we have previously given.

To sum up, we need for the current year, and ask you to appropriate : —

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For instruction, fuel and care of rooms . . . | \$10,100 00 |
| school incidentals and small repairs . . . | 500 00 |
| furnace and furniture purchased for the Hancock Primary School . . . | 375 00 |
| shingling two houses . . . | 300 00 |
| We recommend, and strongly urge you to appropriate for additional furnaces at the Hancock and Adams School houses . . . | 650 00 |
| fence at Hancock School house . . . | 150 00 |
| fence and repairs at Warren School house . . . | 250 00 |
| books for the High School . . . | 100 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$12,425 00 |

If the town in continuance of its liberality shall vote to appropriate a considerably larger sum than this, there is no question that it can be wisely expended in further carrying out the suggestions we have made.

We think we have good schools; we should not, however, be content to rest here, but should ever aim to make them better.

Not to do this by liberal expenditures is a sad financial

mistake ; no blunders can be made by voting money in this direction. You can better afford to let your roads go merely passable, even neglect other needed improvements, — for inconvenience caused by such things is temporary and generally local, — but if you allow your public schools to suffer, you affect, not only the present, but the future welfare of the whole community.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The annual examinations, just completed, were so fully attended by parents, that there seems to be little necessity for referring to them at length. We believe that the results were very generally satisfactory. Certainly, we have never before heard parents express their pleasure so freely, and in behalf of the teachers and scholars we thank them for it. Very much of the excellence of the schools in the Adams District is doubtless due to the generous encouragement and support which the teachers receive from the people. We wish we might arouse the same interest in all parts of the town.

We have had changes of teachers during the year in the Hancock Grammar, Bowditch and Howard Schools. The Hancock had already suffered so much from the frequent changes, that the last change could hardly fail to be for the better. Under the new principal the school has gradually improved, and though falling as yet far below our ideal standard, it has been doing fair work, and must continue to improve under a teacher so thoroughly devoted to his work.

The Bowditch School has suffered much during the last term from the alarm caused by the loss of one of its pupils by scarlet fever.

There have also been two changes of teachers : Miss Sturtevant, who had been a faithful worker with us, resigning at the close of the first term for a better field of labor. Her successor, also very successful, was soon appointed to a more

lucrative position in Cambridge, and a second time in one term we filled the vacancy. We have been so fortunate in our selections that the school appears to have suffered very little, if any, from this cause.

At the Howard School the change was caused by the resignation of the teacher on account of ill-health. We have ever regarded Miss Russell as one of our most painstaking and excellent teachers, and we deeply regret her loss to our schools. It becomes the more painful from the reflection that she may have physically worn out in our service.

We were again fortunate in securing the services of the present teacher who returns to our schools, having added to her long experience the benefit of a year's practical study. The school suffered at first under the new teacher, from the incursion of a rude horde, who, for a while, threatened to carry everything before it, but, at the time of writing, is in excellent discipline.

The remaining schools have continued under the charge of the same teachers, all of whom have been deeply interested, and have given all their energies to the work. The result has been a healthy discipline, systematic study, and continually improving methods of instruction.

The character of the High School has not only been well sustained, but it has made rapid strides towards the standard desired for it, under the very excellent instruction it has received. The whole tone of the school is good, and its discipline is almost above reproach.

At the close of the year, at the request of the principal, the examination was continued two days, which afforded time for a fairer criticism of its work.

Such an examination could hardly fail to reveal some shortcomings, but it especially showed the extensive scope and high character of the work which has been done by both teachers and pupils.

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Outside of the regular school duties, though never supplanting or trespassing too much upon them, so much has been done that we are almost surprised when we recall it. Early in the year the school entered into a friendly contest for prizes offered for excellence in declamation and recitation; the contestants preparing with great care, and acquitting themselves with much credit before a large and appreciative audience. The committee chosen for that purpose awarded the first prize to Miss Annie E. Bryant, of the class of 1873, and the second prize to Miss Edith J. Robinson, of the class of 1876. Later in the term, they entered into a contest for prizes offered for the best essays or compositions on the subject of "Cruelty to Animals," and still later on the subject of "Why should we abstain from intoxicating drinks," The successful contestants on the first subject were Sarah E. Holmes, Minnie T. Brown, Grace H. Plumer, and Hattie E. Blinn. And on the last subject, the prizes awarded by a committee chosen by the pupils were as follows: a first prize to Florence M. Damon, and second prizes to Carrie A. Bacon and Everett M. Mulliken. At the close of the first term, the school united in an extended exhibition in connection with the exercises of graduation, and during the past season have given the town the benefit of a highly satisfactory series of entertainments, managed entirely by themselves, one of which was another exhibition of much merit. And through the entire year they have conducted a lyceum for debate, and other literary exercises, relying on their own members for management and support.

We have frequently been accused of desiring to make the High School "a model school;" a desire for which, perhaps, we need not apologize, but of which we have fallen so far short of a realization that the accusation seems to be especially absurd. We *have* striven hard to make the Primary Schools models of their kind, but so much had crept into each of the higher grades, so unlike our ideals of a

model, that we have been compelled to let matters take their course, relying upon our efforts in the lower grades to show their effects in due time in the High School. We think we cannot be misunderstood; it is a model school already in its deportment, in the interest which the pupils take in their work, and in other particulars; but in scholarship it falls far short of what a school of such grade should be, and maintains its position by harder work than the limited course of study should require.

If our scholars are allowed to pass slowly and thoroughly through the lower grades of school, we shall have fewer complaints of overwork; but there is a certain unhealthy pressure existing in every grade, for which parents are greatly responsible. Every class has been admitted to the High School too soon; but teachers and committee must submit to public sentiment to a certain extent uninformed, and sometimes act contrary to good judgment.

We are painfully aware that we cannot frame a course of study in accordance with theories, but that it must conform in great measure to the various conditions of life and to the resources at our command. No course can be laid down which shall meet the requirements of each pupil, or the demands of every parent; and in a small town like ours, the course must necessarily be contracted to meet our limited means of instruction.

Again, a majority of our pupils advance no higher than the Grammar School, many leaving even before completing the Intermediate grade.

It becomes particularly important so to frame our course that those boys and girls who go no farther than the Grammar School may have good instruction in what are termed common English branches, and pursue such other studies as shall the better fit them for every-day life, and to see that faithful work is done in each of the lower grades.

We are much pleased with the working of the course thus

far, and are confident that what we have laid down, improved by time and experience, will produce results more satisfactory than we have ever witnessed.

We have more closely followed the course, and accomplished more, in the Primary Schools than elsewhere; but even here the work is but begun, and requires constant and careful supervision.

The possibilities of instruction in this grade are varied and extensive, and demand of teachers thorough preparation for their work, constant care and study, and the exercise of the best qualities of mind and heart.

Instruction here should be chiefly oral and objective, and text-books used sparingly and with care. In this direction we have yet much to learn. Teaching reading alone is an art which is poorly understood, and, in view of the strong claims made by the advocates of the Phonic System of Dr. Leigh, it may be wise for us to give this careful attention.

The Primary Schools contain many children who are likely to grow up without much instruction at home, even in ordinary handiwork, and there is little question that, to such as these, instruction in plain sewing would be of great service, and it is worthy of consideration. This would necessitate the employment of an additional teacher a few hours per week, at slight expense.

In this connection, let us call your attention to the size of the Hancock Primary, already too large, and still increasing. The time is not far distant when we must provide for a division of the school, and the plan suggested of establishing another school of this grade near the railroad crossing on Woburn street, has its advantages, and is also worthy of your attention.

We are suffering also from lack of instructors in the Grammar Schools, especially in the Hancock, and fear that it is poor policy to continue much longer without furnishing relief to the principal, a portion of the time at least. The

teacher of the Hancock Primary has rendered such assistance during the year, but her increasing duties renders its continuance unwise.

In the High School, too, another instructor could be profitably employed, and when the school receives its full number of classes this will be almost imperative.

We have referred to our course there being necessarily contracted, on account of our means for instruction, and we are in full accord with those who entertain more enlarged ideas of education, and demand a broader field for selection.

The only true plan is that which allows each pupil to a great extent to select a course for himself, which shall better conform to his circumstances and to his intended career in life. This is only possible where a sufficient number of teachers and proper conveniences are afforded. Until we have relief in this regard, there appears to be no better plan than to follow our present course, with such modifications from time to time as the good of the greatest number seems to demand.

The school year having been extended, as stated in our last report, the exercises of graduation of the class of 1873, of the High School, took place at the close of the first term.

The graduating exercises, in connection with those of other pupils, were held in the Town Hall, June 26. The original parts of the graduates were prepared with care and presented with effect, and were as follows:—

Essay. — "Hunger and Love the World's Ministers," with Salutory Address. Anna E. Bryant.

Essay. — Author and Publisher. Sarah L. Adams.

Oration. — Credit Mobilier. William H. Mulliken.

Essay. — Higher Influences. Ellen E. Harrington.

Essay. — Let there be Light. Minnie T. Brown.

Oration. — Principia non Homines, with valedictory address. John E. A. Mulliken.

At the close of the first term also, fifteen applicants presented themselves for examination for admission to the High School and thirteen were admitted. We extended the examination through two days, not for the purpose of making it any more critical or formidable, but that the applicants might have sufficient time in which to prepare their papers, and to avoid the great fatigue resulting from crowding too much mental effort into one day.

The examination, following as closely as practicable the plan of last year, was by printed questions, as follows:—

ARITHMETIC.

(*Work to be left in full.*)

1. What two methods of Notation are in use? What characters are used in each? What are significant figures? When are numbers prime to each other? What is a composite number?
2. Divide 0.00090478 by 9.43. Write the dividend, divisor and quotient in words.
3. Divide four thousandths by four thousands. Also, four thousands by four thousandths, and write the quotients in words.
4. What operations on the dividend and divisor, the terms of a fraction, and the antecedent and consequent of a ratio produce like results? Give examples of each.
5. How does reducing fractions to others having a common denominator affect them? Why?
6. If two-thirds of a ton of coal cost \$8.33 $\frac{1}{3}$, how much will six-sevenths of a ton cost? Perform this by analysis and by using a proportion.
7. What are the avails of a note for \$8,426.84, due in 1 yr., 7 mo., 5 d., discounted at the Lexington Bank at 7 $\frac{3}{10}$ per cent.

8. A, B and C trade in partnership. A furnishes $\frac{1}{2}$ the capital, and is to have $\frac{1}{3}$ of the gain for extra services. B and C furnish \$3,000 each, and the gain is \$5,760. What is the share of each?

9. Sold cloth at \$1.25 per yard, and lost 15 per cent. For what should I have sold it to gain 12 per cent.?

10. A cellar is to be dug 30 feet long and 20 feet wide; at what depth will 50 cubic yards of earth have been removed?

11. A building 28 feet wide has the gable ends 15 feet high; how long are the rafters?

12. What is the measurement each way of a cube whose contents are 2803221 solid inches?

GRAMMAR.

1. Write and punctuate correctly the following business note:—

LEXINGTON MASS, Jan 16 1873.

Messrs Noyes Holmes & co

No. 219 Washington st, Boston

dear sir

Please send me this P M by Worthleys Expres Reeves History of english law 3 vols and charge the same to the account of Cary library.

respectfully yours

A B ENDICOTT

2. Mention the properties of nouns, and what they show.

3. What is meant by personification? Give an example.

4. Give a synopsis of "lie" (to recline), through all the moods and tenses in the first person.

5. Mention all the ways of comparing Adjectives.

6. Write sentences showing four methods of modifying the subject by words.

7. Write sentences showing two methods of modifying the predicate by clauses.

8. Correct, if necessary, the following sentences : —
 Be careful whom you trust.
 Every one likes their own machine best.
 The peaches taste sweetly.
 It is I.
 He writes better than me.
 You was there.
 Every one of the witnesses testify to the same thing.
 She looks beautiful in her new silk dress.
 They done the best they could.
9. Give the rule for final *y* in spelling derivatives.
10. Analyze the following, and parse the italicized words : —

*Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
 "Life is but an empty dream !"
 For the soul is dead that slumbers,
 And things are not what they seem.*

GEOGRAPHY.

1. Name the zones, their width in degrees, and the circles which bound them. Give the latitude of these circles, and tell why they are so placed.
2. What is the greatest possible latitude? longitude?
3. The longitude of Boston is seventy-one degrees west from Greenwich: give the longitude of two places — one, one hundred degrees east, and the other, one hundred degrees west from Boston.
4. Describe the islands on the east coast of North America in their order, beginning at the north, and state to what nations they belong.
5. Mention the different bodies of water surrounding the British Islands, and the rivers flowing into each.
6. Enumerate the States through or by which the Mississippi river flows.

7. What mountains and seas form parts of the boundary between Asia and Europe?

8. On what waters would you sail in going from Chicago to Constantinople?

9. Name the counties in Massachusetts. Which is farthest north? farthest west? What towns in Massachusetts are engaged in fisheries? in the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods? of boots and shoes?

10. Draw an outline map of North America. What is the first step?

HISTORY.

1. From what continent did the first inhabitants of America probably come, and what remains of these people are found?

2. Give accounts of the English explorations during the first epoch.

3. Give an account of the Puritans and their settlement.

4. State some of the causes of the American Revolution.

5. Give accounts of the important events of 1775.

6. Why is the Fourth of July celebrated in this country?

7. Who was the second president of the United States? Tell something of his life and character.

8. What presidents have died in office, and who succeeded them?

9. What was the Missouri Compromise? State the doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty.

10. What are the thirteenth and fourteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States?

GEOMETRY.

1. What are concentric curves? Illustrate by a figure.

2. How large is each angle of an equilateral triangle? Why?

3. If a line be drawn through a triangle parallel to one of its sides, how does it divide the other two sides? Illustrate by a figure.
4. State the Pythagorean proposition. Draw the figure.
5. What is a chord? How long is the chord of an arc of sixty degrees?
6. Show how to inscribe a triangle in a circle.
7. How many more rods of fencing will it require to enclose a field 36 rods long and 16 rods wide than a square field of the same area?
8. How do you measure a circle? π being a little more than three? More exactly? Still more exactly? Illustrate.
9. What is a cycloid? The length of the curve? The length of the base? The area between the arch and the base? Illustrate by a figure.
10. What is the solid measure of a sphere?

MUSIC.

1. Make a staff; add G clef and scale in C with letters, and F clef scale in C with letters.
2. How does a sharp or flat affect a note?
3. Write the triad of every letter, commencing with C.
4. Write the signature and scale from the key of C to the key of E.
5. Write the signature and scale from the key of F to the key of A flat.
6. In the key of D write the triad of the first, fourth and fifth degrees.
7. In the key of A flat write the triad of the first, fourth and fifth degrees.
8. Fill a measure in three kinds of double time.
9. Fill a measure in three kinds of triple time.
10. Fill a measure in three kinds of quadruple time.
11. How would you sing music Marked P.—M.—F.

12. Write a musical phrase of four measures in double time.

SPELLING.

Spell correctly the following words:—

Parrallel, Cloriform, Judgment, Partciple, Agreeable, Tuesday, Acheive, Fulfillment, Embarassment, Predjudice, Cemetery, Confectionary.

For convenience of reference and for the information of many who are interested, we append to this report a list of those who have passed through a course of study and graduated from the High School, together with the full number connected with each class during the course.

The High School was established in September, 1854. There seems to have been no attempt made at distinct classification or systematic work until 1860, when a course of study was adopted and existing classes made to conform to it as far as practicable. The class of 1861 was maturer, and, in some particulars, further advanced than subsequent classes, and some of its members were employed as assistants during the following year. We have no means of deciding how many were connected with this class, or with the next to complete the course, that of 1863.

The class of 1864 was the first to begin the course and pass thoroughly through it. This was the largest class to graduate, and yet it lost fifty per cent. of its full number. From that time the per centage of loss has increased, culminating in the class of 1872, no member of whose whole twenty-one persevered to the end.

From the record appended it will be seen that during the past ten years only twenty-eight per cent. of those who have entered the school have continued through the four years.

From the unwritten history of these ten classes we may deduce facts instructive, but facts which are painful, for it is

not pleasant to contemplate the too general indifference of parents with regard to education.

It is rarely the case that a pupil leaves school on account of ill-health, and in our town necessity is equally rare. We must therefore attribute this lamentable falling-off to a lack of encouragement at home, and the consequent lack of interest and energy necessary for profitable mental labor. The time generally required for the course of our common schools is from five to eighteen years of age.

Thirteen years prospective seems a long time ; but in view of the end of school work, to lay a firm foundation on which to build the structure for which one's course in the school of life is pitifully short, it is but little adequate.

DRAWING AND MUSIC.

In drawing we have slowly progressed during the year, and in most of the schools good results are already seen. We cannot expect the proficiency shown in places where professional teachers are employed for this alone ; but most of our regular teachers have had good success, and are rapidly improving. We are especially pleased with the books of the High and Adams Grammar Schools ; and in the latter school the work shown at the examination was very praiseworthy.

In music we have the benefit of an energetic and skilful teacher, and his continued success throughout the town, but especially in our graded schools, fully equals our expectations. We think we cannot overestimate music, as a means of education. Many things taught in our schools are forgotten, and many branches pursued laid aside ; but the musical instruction received will not be forgotten, and will carry much of happiness to the homes of many families.

ATTENDANCE.

The whole number of pupils in our schools during the year is four hundred and eighty-four. Of these, fifty-eight

were over fifteen, and seven under five years of age. The number returned by the assessors is three hundred and eighty-eight, leaving thirty-eight still to be accounted for. Our proportion of the State School Fund, depending on the number of scholars between those ages, renders it important that the official return should approximate the actual number.

The average attendance of actual members in all the schools, for the year, has been 90.2 per cent, a gain of 4.2 per cent. over that of last year.

The average daily attendance in number has been three hundred and twenty-one, showing the fact that one hundred and sixty-three of those who have been connected with the schools some time during the year are, on an average, absent daily. The increase above referred to is a source of some gratification, but the last lamentable fact renders it a grave question, whether or not some more stringent measures should be adopted to remedy the evil.

The "roll of honor," including those scholars who have not been absent or tardy for a term or longer, is as follows:—

ROLL OF HONOR.

ADAMS GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

For the year. — Harry Pierce, Nellie Holbrook, Alonzo E. Locke.

For the second term. — Joseph Buckley, Willie Barnes, Hiram Lombard, Harry Alderman, Ernestine White, Hattie Adams.

ADAMS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

For the year. — Etta Smith, Jennie Smith, Amy Holbrook.

For the first term. — John Keefe, William D. Chisholm.

For the second term. — Willie R. Bass, Cora Alderman.

ADAMS PRIMARY SCHOOL.

For the year. — Elisha Lombard.

For the second term. — Florence Holbrook.

HANCOCK GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

For the first term. — Annie Adair, William Reed.

For the second term. — Addie Kneeland, Alice Wright, Fred. Butters.

HANCOCK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

For the year. — Sylvia Read, Mary Brigham.

For the first term. — Everett Emery, George Hodgman.

For the second term. — Alfred Adams, Frederic Saville, John McDonell.

HANCOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

For the first term. — Mabel E. Alexander.

For the second term. — Mattie C. Locke, Fred. L. Fowle, Ralph Edgar Lane.

BOWDITCH SCHOOL.

For the second term. — Emma Flint.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL.

For the first term. — Kate J. Cashman.

For the second term. — Annie McCarthy.

HOWARD SCHOOL.

For the year. — Emily A. Ferguson.

WARREN SCHOOL.

For the year. — Lucy G. Porter.

For the first term. — Laura M. Kendrick.

For the second term. — Lottie Kendrick.

HIGH SCHOOL.

For the year. — Lilian F. Choate, Florence M. Damon, Leah Nunn, Nellie H. Parker, Edith J. Robinson, Clara Wentworth, Nathaniel Nunn, Frank Sumner, George Reed.

For the first term. — S. L. Adams, Hattie Blinn, Annie Bryant, Abbie Holbrook, Sarah Holmes, Amelia Mulliken, Charles Adams, C. W. Bryant, J. E. A. Mulliken, W. H. Mulliken.

For the second term. — S. A. Adams, Maria Butterfield, Nellie Lunt, Carrie Underwood, Carrie Bacon, Georgie Dunning, Clara Dennett, J. Donovan.

The following scholars from the various schools have not been absent or tardy, as follows : —

For three years. — Florence M. Damon, Leah Nunn, Alonzo E. Locke.

For two and one-half years. — Annie E. Bryant, Edith J. Robinson, Kate J. Cashman.

For two years. — Harry Pierce, Nellie Holbrook, Etta Smith.

For one and one-half years. — Lilian F. Choate, Lucy G. Porter.

Previous to the last term : —

For two and one-half years. — Amelia Mulliken.

For two years. — Abbie P. Holbrook.

For one and one-half years. — Laura M. Kendrick, William W. Reed.

This list includes only those who have been neither absent nor tardy. There are others in almost every school who have not been absent, but unfortunate tardy marks debar them.

In closing, we would ask our teachers to continue their labors with renewed zeal.

Be mindful of little things, and let nothing objectionable go unnoticed, for it is the little things that soon determine the character of the school. Be careful of your pronunciation, your language, your expressions, and your whole bearing in the school-room.

Keep your school-rooms scrupulously clean; insist on the personal neatness of your pupils, and see to it that they have no reason to criticise you in this regard.

Above all VENTILATE! Have good fires in the season; and at *all* recesses, and when scholars are in exercise, throw up your windows, not an inch here and there, but wide open, that the pure air from without may have an equal chance with the impurities within.

We append the usual tabular view and the list of graduates referred to.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. SCOTT,

CHARLES TIDD,

CHARLES A. WELLINGTON.

LEXINGTON, February, 1874.

TABULAR VIEW.

| SCHOOLS. | TEACHERS. | No. of Scholars. 1st Term. | No. of Scholars. 2d Term. | Average Number 1st Term. | Average Number 2d Term. | Average Number for the year. | Per cent of Attendance of actual Members. | Salaries. |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| High | { A. E. White. Louisa M. Thurston. | 37 | 42 | 36+ | 41+ | 38.5 | 97 7-12 | { \$2,000 00 550 00 |
| Adams Grammar | Silas Penbody. | 33 | 86 | 29 | 33.7 | 31.3 | 97 6-12 | 1,200 00 |
| Hancock Grammar | { C. E. Waaburne. O. A. Flint. | 40 | 44 | 44.2 | 35.25 | 34.7 | 93 7-10 | { 750 00 1,000 00 |
| Adams Intermediate | Gertrude Pierce. | 27 | 32 | 22.3 | 24.6 | 23.4 | 87 | 450 00 |
| Hancock Intermediate | Ellen B. Lane. | 45 | 38 | 34 | 32 | 33 | 97 3-4 | 475 00 |
| Howard | { M. E. Russell. Martha A. Jackson. | 22 | 29 | 18.3 | 18.61 | 18.3 | 89 | { 475 00 475 00 |
| Bowditch | { Sarah E. Sturtevant. Lottie A. Brown. Ada M. Frost. | 45 | 47 | 31.5 | 32.83 | 32.1 | 85+ | { 475 00 450 00 450 00 |
| Franklin | Mary E. Thompson. | 32 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 91 6-10 | 450 00 |
| Warren | Ellen M. Underwood. | 45 | 46 | 28.7 | 29 | 28.8 | 77 | 475 00 |
| Adams Primary | Carrie F. Fiske. | 32 | 33 | 24.24 | 24.95 | 24.59 | 83 | 400 00 |
| Hancock Primary | Frances A. Hutchinson. | 43 | 52 | 32 | 40 | 36 | 88 1-2 | 400 00 |
| Music Teacher for all the Schools | Horace Bird. | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | . . | 600 00 |

GRADUATES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL.

1861.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Ellen M. Brown, | Sarah B. Gould, |
| Helen S. Coates, | Annie M. Knight, |
| Lusanna P. Damon, | Abby C. Stetson, |
| Lucy M. Gould, | H. M. Wingate. |

1863.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mary C. Dellinger, | Leonora Russell, |
| Ellen E. Goddard, | Marietta G. Simonds, |
| Elvira A. Hutchinson, | James E. Parker, |
| Emily A. Peirce, | Theodore P. Robinson. |

1864.

Whole number, twenty-four. Twelve graduates.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Ella L. Bacon, | Sarah J. Smith, |
| Anna I. Crafts, | Clara M. Simonds, |
| Ellen I. Crafts, | Alice A. Tufts, |
| Eliza R. Munroe, | Eugene A. Brown, |
| E. Dora Peirce, | Alfred D. Cutler, |
| Abby M. Parker, | Frank E. Saville. |

1865.

Whole number, thirty. Nine graduates.

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Elizabeth F. Brown, | Ellen W. Stetson, |
| Lucy A. Goodrich, | |
| Ellen M. Gould, | Charles S. Blodgett, |
| Allina M. Livermore, | Wm. H. Robinson, |
| Mary F. Smith, | Winslow Simonds. |

1866.

Whole number, twenty. Four graduates.

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Clara E. Bacon, | Ella A. Fitch. |
| Georgianna Munroe, | Walter Blodgett. |

1867.

Whole number, fourteen. Six graduates.

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| M. Ella Russell, | Abby E. Wright, |
| Abby J. Simonds, | Mary E. Whiting, |
| Adeline A. Winship, | Dudley A. Dorr. |

1868.

Whole number, thirty-one. Four graduates.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Annie H. Coolidge, | Carrie F. Fiske, |
| Julia F. Coolidge, | Georgianna T. Parker. |

1869.

Whole number, twelve. Four graduates.

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Sarah M. Graham, | Celia Russell, |
| Alice W. Pierce, | Ellen M. Underwood. |

March **1870.**

Whole number, fourteen. Four graduates.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Emma F. Parker, | Ida M. Cadwell, |
| Sarah E. Robinson, | Augusta D. Simonds. |

1871.

Whole number, thirteen. Seven graduates.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Frances A. Hutchinson, | Eva C. Bacon, |
| Isanna H. Page, | Emma E. H. Wright, |
| Gertrude Pierce, | Hiram R. Mills, |
| Ellen A. Stone, | Herbert A. Tuttle. |

1872.

Whole number, twenty-one. Graduates none.

1873.

Whole number, nineteen. Six graduates.

Sarah L. Adams,
Minnie T. Brown,
Anna E. Bryant,

Ellen E. Harrington,
John E. A. Mulliken,
Wm. H. Mulliken.